





MANIPULATE
SUSAN?



MWUH-HAHAHAHA!

DATE ME, OR I WILL KICK
ALL OF THE PUPPIES!

ARF!

WOOF!



I DON'T
THINK SO.



HE'S DOOMED.



YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND! TOM
IS *SNEAKY*! HE TREATS EVERY-
THING LIKE IT'S A CHESS GAME,
AND HE LIKES MAKING PEOPLE
DO WHAT HE WANTS WHILE
THINKING IT WAS *THEIR IDEA*!



"IT'S LIKE, YOU COULD
HAVE A SANDWICH? AND
HE'LL WANT TO EAT THE
SANDWICH, BUT HE
WON'T ASK YOU FOR IT."



"INSTEAD, HE'LL SAY OR DO
SOMETHING SNEAKY THAT
MAKES YOU WANT TO GIVE HIM
THE SANDWICH, ALL WHILE
THINKING IT WAS *YOUR IDEA*."



AND THEN? HE EATS
YOUR SANDWICH.

KRAK-A-THOOM

OKAY... SO HE'S A CHESS
PLAYING JERK. I STILL DON'T
THINK WE NEED TO WORRY
ABOUT HIM GETTING ANY-
WHERE WITH SUSAN.

SHE'S NOT INTERESTED
IN DATING. OR PHYSICAL
CONTACT. OR CHESS.

I DON'T KNOW HER LIKE YOU
DO, BUT I WOULDN'T BE TOO
SURE. I COULDN'T HELP BUT
OVERHEAR THEM YESTERDAY
BECAUSE WE WERE IN A
SMALL CLASSROOM AND I
WAS EAVESDROPPING, AND—

HE'S ALREADY
TALKED TO HER?

YEAH. SUSAN WAS
UPSET ABOUT SOMETHING,
AND TOM SWOOPED IN TO
CHEER HER UP.

THAT BASTARD.
WAIT, SUSAN
WAS UPSET?

YEAH, SOMETHING
ABOUT PEOPLE NOT
LIKING HER? TOM
SAID PEOPLE DO LIKE
HER, BUT SHE'S
INTIMIDATING.

I THOUGHT *MAYBE*
HE *REALLY* WAS
JUST BEING NICE..

BUT THEN HE
SUDDENLY WALKED AWAY
AND SAID HE WOULDN'T
"BOTHER HER" AGAIN
AFTER HE'D *CLEARLY*
MADE HER LIKE HIM.

SHE LIKES...
WHY WOULD HE
DO THAT?

TO MAKE *HER* TAKE THE
INITIATIVE. INSTEAD OF ASKING
HER IF SHE'D LIKE TO TALK MORE
LATER, HE MANIPULATED *HER* INTO
ASKING. IT'S WHAT HE DOES.

AND HIS GOAL IS FOR
HER TO ASK HIM OUT.

I ASSUME SO,
AMONG OTHER
THINGS.

...I MIGHT HAVE
TO HURT THIS GUY.



YOU... LIKE ME?

THAT SHOULD BE ALL YOU
NEED I'M GOING TO GO HIDE
FOREVER NOW BYE

WAIT!

EVEN AFTER YOU
SAW ME... YOU KNOW...
LIKE THAT?

ESPECIALLY AFTER
THAT. I MEAN... MAYBE?

AND YOU TOLD ME ALL OF
THIS STUFF ANYWAY, ALL WHILE
ASSUMING I WANTED TO BE WITH
SUSAN, BECAUSE YOU THOUGHT IT
WAS THE RIGHT THING TO DO.

I... YEAH, I
GUESS I DID.

I... I THINK I
LIKE YOU, TOO.



YOU DO?



YEAH, I DO. I MEAN, WE SHOULD GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER BETTER,, BUT... WOULD YOU LIKE TO, UM...



SHOOT. IS IT *WRONG* FOR ME TO ASK YOU OUT RIGHT NOW?



I'M NOT SURE. IT *IS* SORT OF WEIRD TIMING.



I DID *JUST* BREAK UP WITH SARAH A COUPLE WEEKS AGO...



AND WE SHOULD PROBABLY BE FOCUSING ON SUSAN... PLUS, YOU HAVEN'T CONFIRMED THAT I'M TELLING THE TRUTH YET...



YOU ARE TELLING THE TRUTH, AREN'T YOU?



YES! YOU'D KNOW IF I WASN'T, I'M A HORRIBLE ACTOR! *BUUUT* WE JUST MET, SO YOU WOULDN'T KNOW THAT, SO...



YEAH, NOW'S PROBABLY NOT THE "RIGHT TIME" TO ASK YOU OUT...

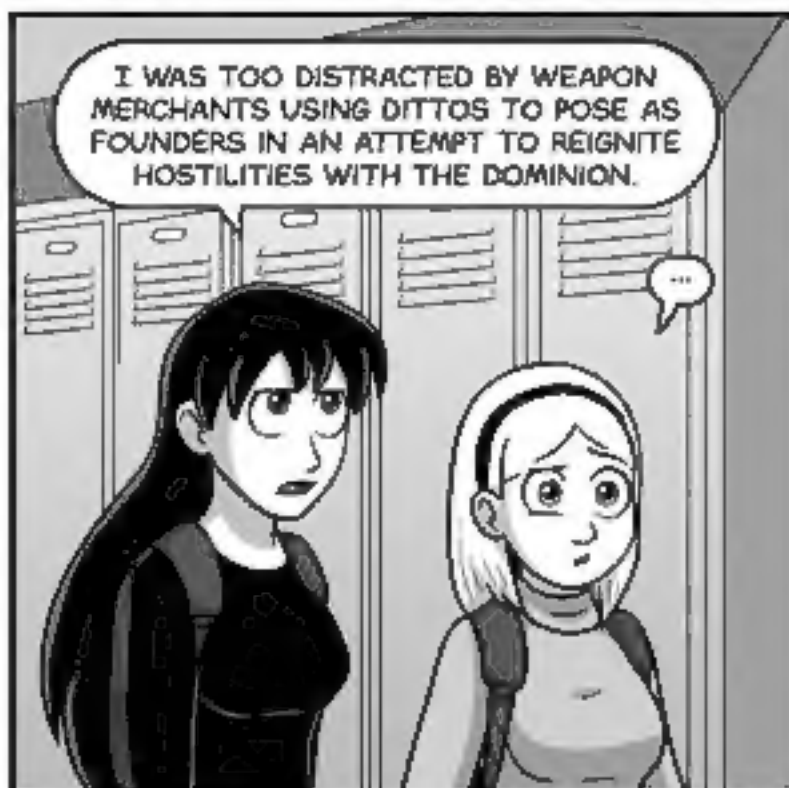
PROBABLY NOT, NO...

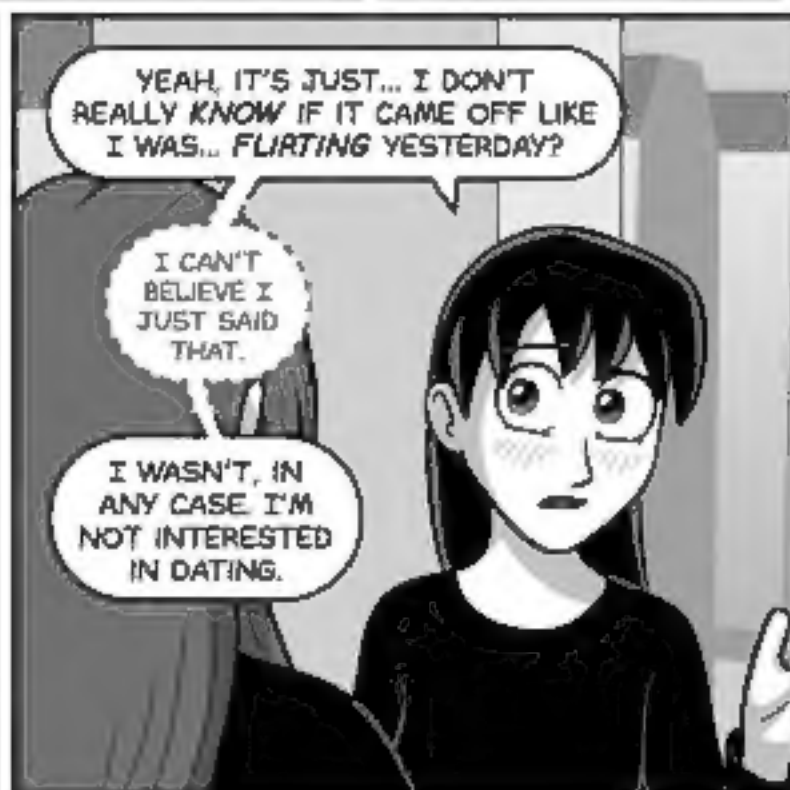


WELL, I'M GONNA DO IT ANYWAY. WANNA GO OUT SOMETIME?

YES! YES I DO.

Shortly after Elliot and Ashley went upstairs...





I KNOW, I MUST SOUND STUPID. AND CONCEITED. AND MAYBE SOME OTHER THINGS, BUT I WANT TO BE SURE I'M NOT SENDING MIXED SIGNALS.

OR MAYBE I WASN'T SENDING MIXED SIGNALS BEFORE, AND NOW MAYBE I AM? UM... I MENTIONED I'M NOT USED TO THIS?

YOU JUST WANT TO BE FRIENDS.

YES! WELL, I'D LIKE TO TALK SOME MORE. AT LEAST. I HOPE YOU DIDN'T THINK...

I ASSUMED NOTHING OF THE SORT.

OH, GOOD.

I WOULD LOVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO GET TO KNOW YOU BETTER. WE CAN ALWAYS DECIDE IF WE WANT TO DATE LATER.

WELL, NO, I'VE ALREADY DECIDED.

I'M SORRY?

I'D LIKE TO TALK MORE, BUT I'M REALLY NOT LOOKING FOR ROMANCE. IF YOU ARE...

NOT AT ALL! I'M JUST ACKNOWLEDGING THE POSSIBILITY OF FEELINGS GROWING FROM FRIENDSHIP TO MORE LATER.

I WOULDN'T WANT TO DATE A FRIEND, AND FRIENDSHIP IS ALL I'M LOOKING FOR RIGHT NOW. I WON'T WANT TO DATE YOU LATER.

PERHAPS, BUT YOU CAN'T TRULY PREDICT HOW YOU'LL FEEL IN--

FOR SOMEONE WHO DOESN'T WANT TO DATE ME, YOU SEEM REALLY DETERMINED TO KEEP THAT POSSIBILITY OPEN.



I'M SORRY. I'M THE ONE BEING STUPID. IT'S JUST, I WASN'T EVEN THINKING ABOUT US GOING OUT BEFORE, AND NOW...

IT'S STUPID, BUT I CAN'T HELP BUT FEEL REJECTED.



I SUPPOSE I CAN UNDERSTAND THAT, BUT I'M NOT REJECTING YOU.



I'M JUST NOT INTERESTED... IN...



IN... WHAT?



TOM? WHY DID YOU APOLOGIZE FOR MISSING ME LAST NIGHT?



I WASN'T LOGGED IN TO THE MESSENGER LAST NIGHT.



THEN HOW DO YOU KNOW I WAS? I DIDN'T SAY I WAS GOING TO BE.



YOU SENT ME YOUR PERSONAL SCREEN NAME. I JUST ASSUMED...

YOU SAID, WITHOUT HESITATION, "I'M SORRY I MISSED YOU". NO "IF", NO QUESTION IF YOU HAD... YOU WERE CERTAIN. YOU WERE ONLINE.



THAT'S ABSURD. HAD I BEEN, YOU WOULD HAVE SEEN MY--

I AM AWARE OF INVISIBLE MODE.

UH...

OKAY YES, IT'S TRUE I WAS
ONLINE. BUT I WAS NERVOUS. I
WANTED TO TALK, BUT ..

YEAH,
THAT'S BULL

EXCUSE
ME?!

YOU'VE BEEN NOTHING
BUT CONFIDENT WITH
ME, WHICH BEGS THE
QUESTION:

WHY DID YOU
SUDDENLY WALK
AWAY FROM ME
YESTERDAY?

I WAS WORRIED
I WAS BOTHERING
YOU!

BOTHERING ME?!
I WAS SMILING AT
YOU! YOU'RE THE
WORST LIAR EVER!

I AM A
FANTASTIC
LIAR!

NOT WHEN
A MARK GOES
OFF-SCRIPT
YOU'RE NOT



YOU WANT
THE TRUTH?
FINE



I LIKE YOU I REALLY DO
THINK YOU'RE A BADASS. DS9
IS MY FAVORITE STAR TREK.

BUT I DON'T
REALLY LIKE THE
REST OF THEM
MUCH. I JUST THINK
YOU'RE CUTE WHEN
YOU FAN-GIRL
OVER THEM.



I KNEW YOU'D NEVER
SAY YES TO ANYONE ASKING
YOU OUT SO I TRIED TO
MAKE IT SO YOU'D ASK ME
OUT INSTEAD.

IT'S WORKED
FOR ME BEFORE
I THOUGHT IT
MIGHT AGAIN.



BUT GUESS
WHAT? EVERY-
ONE DOES
THAT

PEOPLE CHOOSE THEIR
WORDS CAREFULLY AND
TELL SMALL LIES ON A
DAILY BASIS TO GET THE
REACTIONS THEY WANT
FROM OTHER PEOPLE



WHETHER IT'S TRYING TO
GET SOMEONE TO DO SOME
THING THINK SOMETHING FEEL
SOMETHING. WHATEVER.

YOU'VE DONE
IT, I'VE DONE
IT, WE'VE ALL
DONE IT



I'M MORE
HONEST THAN
MOST REALLY

AT LEAST I
ADMIT IT TO
MYSELF

YOU'RE NOT ENTIRELY
WRONG. PRETTY MUCH EVERYONE
LIES A LITTLE AND IS SELECTIVE
OF WHAT THEY SHARE FOR ONE
REASON OR ANOTHER...

BUT MOST
PEOPLE ARE AT
LEAST TRYING
TO BE GOOD.

SPARING FEELINGS. PROTECTING
THEMSELVES OR OTHERS. BEING
CAREFUL BECAUSE THEY KNOW A TOPIC
IS UPSETTING, SIMPLY NOT WANTING
TO SHARE SOMETHING PRIVATE.

SOMETIMES
IT'S OKAY. SOME-
TIMES IT'S NOT
BUT THE INTENT
IS USUALLY
DECENT AT
LEAST

YOU, ON THE OTHER HAND, KNEW I
WOULD SAY NO TO DATING, AND INSTEAD OF
RESPECTING MY WISHES, YOU ATTEMPTED TO
MANIPULATE ME TO GET WHAT YOU WANTED

YOU PUT
YOUR OWN
DESIRES FIRST,
TREATED MY
FEELINGS LIKE
THEY WERE SOME
SORT OF GAME,
AND YOU'VE
APPARENTLY
DONE IT
BEFORE

DO YOU WANT TO KNOW
WHAT'S TRULY SAD? WE
COULD HAVE BEEN FRIENDS.
WE STILL COULD HAVE HAD
SOMETHING MEANINGFUL,
BUT NOW?

I DON'T TRUST
YOU. I SUSPECT
MANY PEOPLE
DON'T TRUST
YOU

KEEP DOING WHAT YOU'RE
DOING, TOM, AND YOU WILL
GROW OLD, SAD, AND ALONE.
AND WONDERING WHY SO MANY
PEOPLE DON'T LIKE YOU

I SUGGEST YOU STRIVE
FOR SOMETHING BETTER.

HURTING TOM WOULD JUST MAKE YOU LOOK JEALOUS AND HURT YOUR CHANCES WITH SUSAN. I'M TELLING YOU THIS SO YOU CAN TALK TO HER.

THAT WAS JUST MY WAY OF SAYING I DON'T LIKE HIM. I WASN'T SERIOUSLY GOING TO--

WAIT JEALOUS?

CHANCES?

I'D TALK TO HER MYSELF BUT I'M THE BIASED "CRAZY EX" HECK I WOULDN'T WANT TO LISTEN TO ME. I CAN'T EXPECT HER TO--

WAIT WAIT WAIT WHAT CHANCES? WHAT JEALOUSY?

YOU AND SUSAN. YOU LIKE HER, RIGHT?

AS A FRIEND, SURE. BUT I DON'T WANT TO DATE HER.

OH. I I'M SORRY IT'S JUST I GOT THE IMPRESSION FROM YOUR SHOW THAT MAYBE... YOU KNOW...

SUSAN IS GREAT AND YEAH, SHE'S ATTRACTIVE. BUT I REALLY LIKE THE FRIENDSHIP WE HAVE NOW

SHE'S ALSO BEST FRIENDS WITH MY EX-GIRLFRIEND, SARAH WHO I'M STILL GOOD FRIENDS WITH. AND SUSAN'S NOT INTERESTED IN DATING PEOPLE.

SUSAN AND I AREN'T HAPPENING.

THAT'S...

INTERESTING.



I'M GUESSING IT
DIDN'T GO WELL,
WHAT WITH THE
YELLING AND ALL.

I DIDN'T KNOW
HER AS WELL AS I
THOUGHT I DID
SHE'S CHANGED.

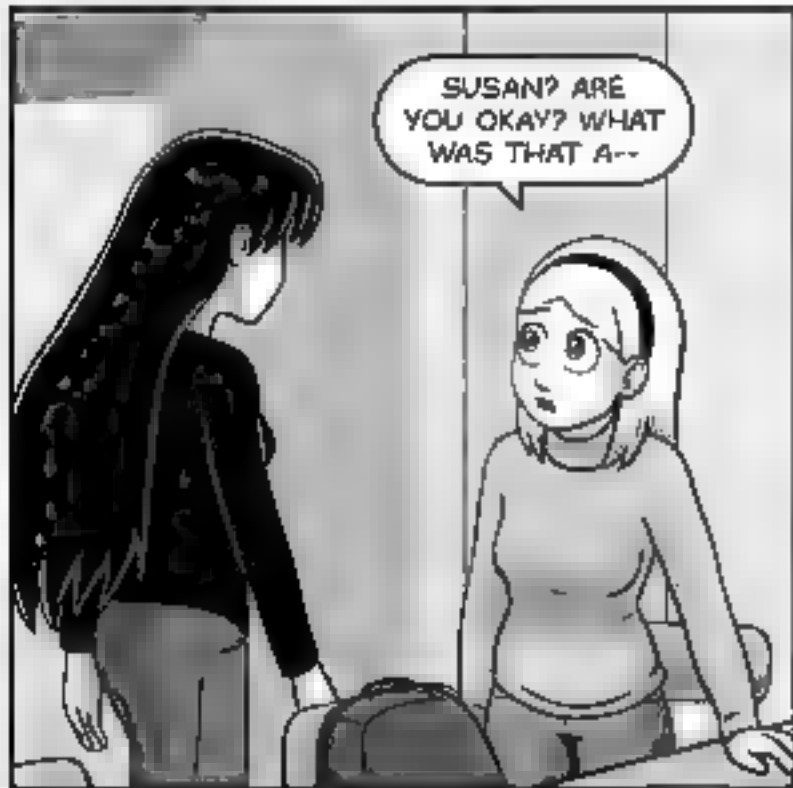


HAS SHE,
NOW?

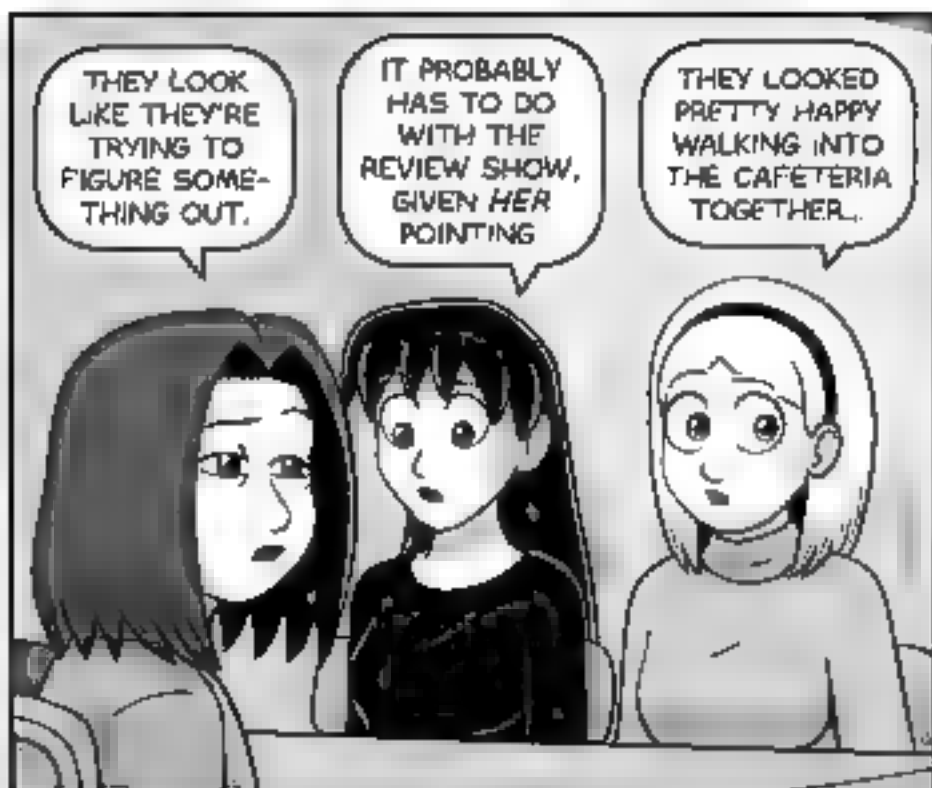
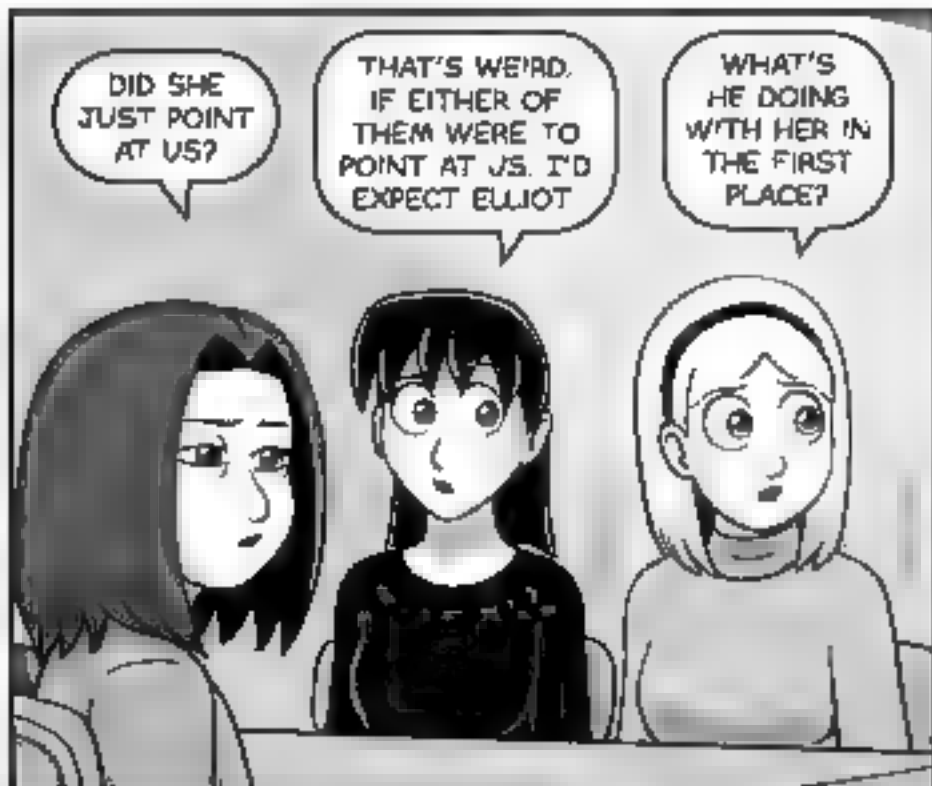
SHE IS NO LONGER
THE HAMMER QUEEN.
SHE IS SOMETHING
MORE NOW.

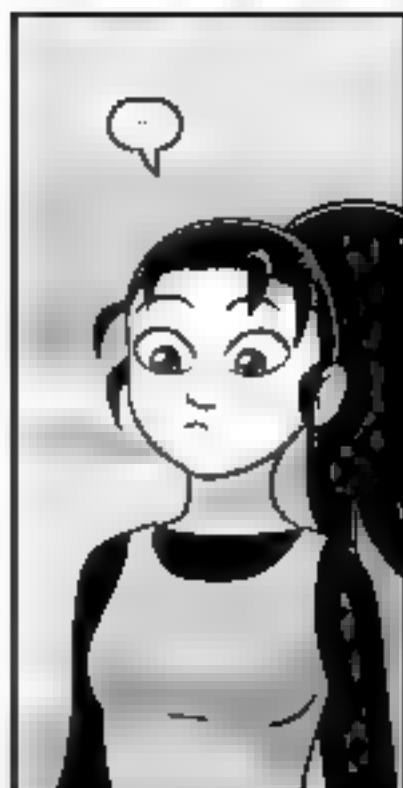


YOU'RE
WEIRD MAN











IS THAT
WHO YOU WERE
TALKING TO?



SIGH. YES. IT'S COMPLICATED
ABRIDGED VERSION: HE WANTED
TO DATE ME. KNEW I'D SAY NO
AND TRIED TO MANIPULATE ME
INTO ASKING HIM OUT ANYWAY



BEFORE I REALIZED
THAT I THOUGHT HE MIGHT
BE NICE TO TALK TO. BUT I
WANTED TO MAKE IT CLEAR
THAT I DIDN'T WANT TO DATE
HIM OR ANYONE ELSE. SO I
DID, AND HE IMPLoded.



YOU... FIGURED
HIM OUT IN LESS
THAN A DAY?



HE MADE IT
PRETTY EASY



I DATED
HIM FOR TWO
MONTHS.

YOU MUST
THINK I'M
AN IDIOT...



I DO NOT
THINK YOU'RE
AN IDIOT!



EEP!

SUSAN!



I'M SORRY THAT
SOUNDED ABOUT TEN
THOUSAND TIMES
ANGRIER THAN I HAD
INTENDED.







YOU THINK THEY
LIKE EACH OTHER?

YEAH. LIKE LIKE-LIKE!
THEY JUST HAD THAT
VIBE, YOU KNOW?



YEAH, I GOT THAT,
TOO. WHICH IS WEIRD.
I'VE NEVER SEEN HIM
WITH HER BEFORE.

WE SHOULD
TELL HIM TO ASK
HER OUT



WE SHOULD
WHAT?

YOU KNOW ENCOURAGE
HIM! I DOUBT HE'LL MAKE
A MOVE IF WE DON'T



AND YOU'D
BE OKAY WITH
THAT?

WELL. YEAH. I'VE GOT
MIXED FEELINGS, BUT I
WANT US TO MOVE ON.



I'M GONNA MAKE LIKE
GRACE AND FOCUS ON
POSITIVE FEELINGS AND
WHAT'S FOR THE BEST!

PLUS. I WON'T
HAVE TO FEEL
GUILTY IF I MEET
SOMEONE NEW



FOR
THE
BEST.



ELLIOT YOU'RE ATTRACTIVE
BUT I M NOT INTERESTED IN
A ROMANTIC RELATIONSHIP
RIGHT NOW AND I'M NOT
SURE I EVER WILL BE.

PLEASE PUT
YOUR LIFE ON HOLD
WHILE I SORT OUT
MY FEELINGS



THEY WILL
DATE.

UM... GLAD
YOU'RE ON
BOARD?

SHOULD WE REALLY BE
ENCOURAGING HIM WHILE
HE'S STILL DEALING
WITH. YOU KNOW.



NICE USE OF
SYMBOLISM. VERY
UNSUSPICIOUS.

ELLIOT HAS
EXPERIENCE
BEING CAREFUL
ABOUT THAT



YEAH, BUT WHAT
IF THEY'RE ABOUT
TO KISS OR SOME
THING WHEN ALL
OF A SUDDEN--



BOING!



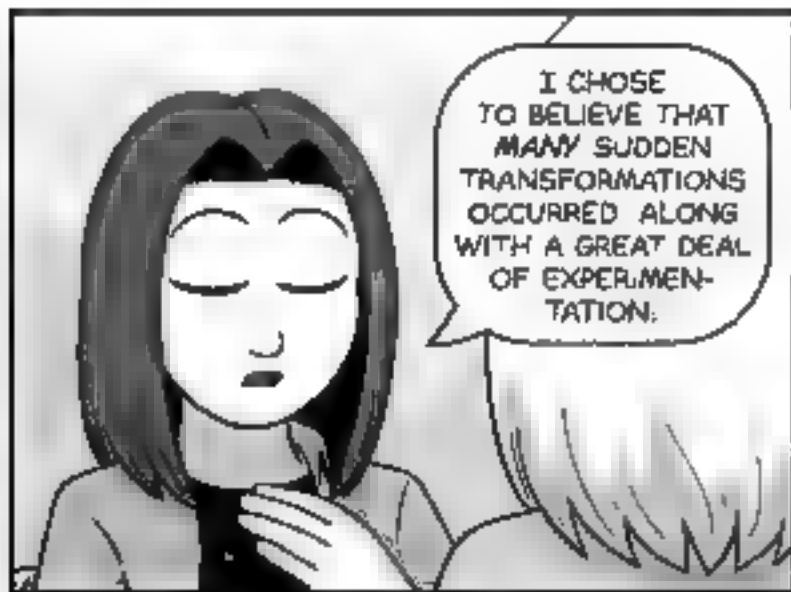
"BOING"?
SERIOUSLY?

NOTHING LIKE THAT
EVER HAPPENED WHILE
I WAS DATING ELLIOT



I BET YOU TELL
KIDS THERE'S NO
SANTA, TOO.





SO HOW DID YOU
WIND UP TALKING
WITH ASHLEY
ABOUT TOM
AND ME?



OH, WELL... SHE WAS
WORRIED YOU'D THINK SHE
WAS A BIASED EX-GIRL-
FRIEND. SO SHE DECIDED
TO TALK TO ME ABOUT IT



SO SHE RAN INTO YOU
AFTER YOU TOOK CARE
OF YOU-KNOW-WHAT?



NOPE. DURING.



DURING?!

WHAT?!



YEAH. I WAS
HIDING IN THE STAIR-
WELL. AND SHE SAW



IT'S OKAY THOUGH.
SHE THINKS IT'S COOL.



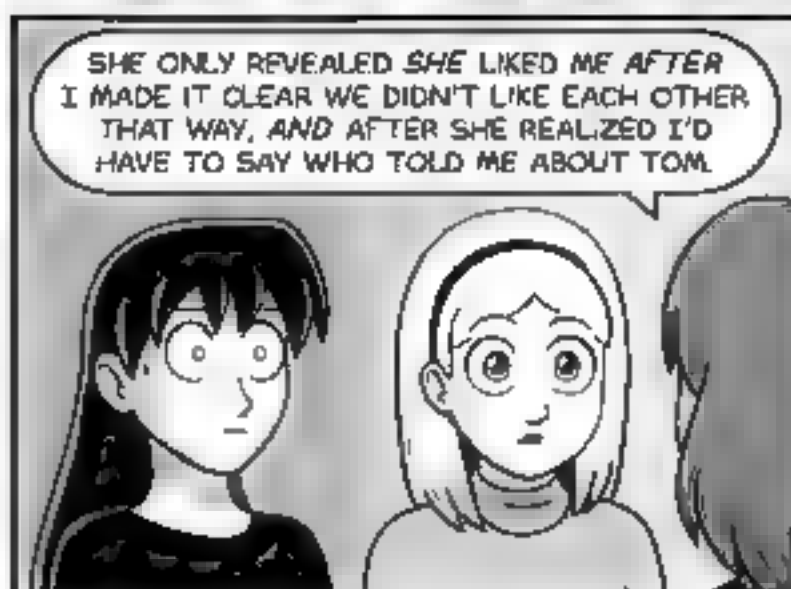
WHY DID... THE
STAIRWELL?

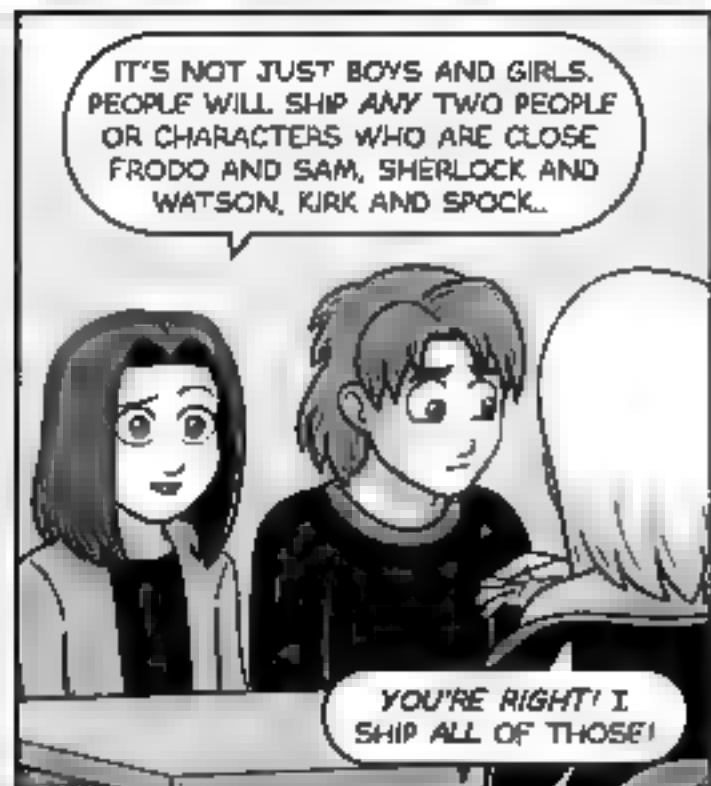
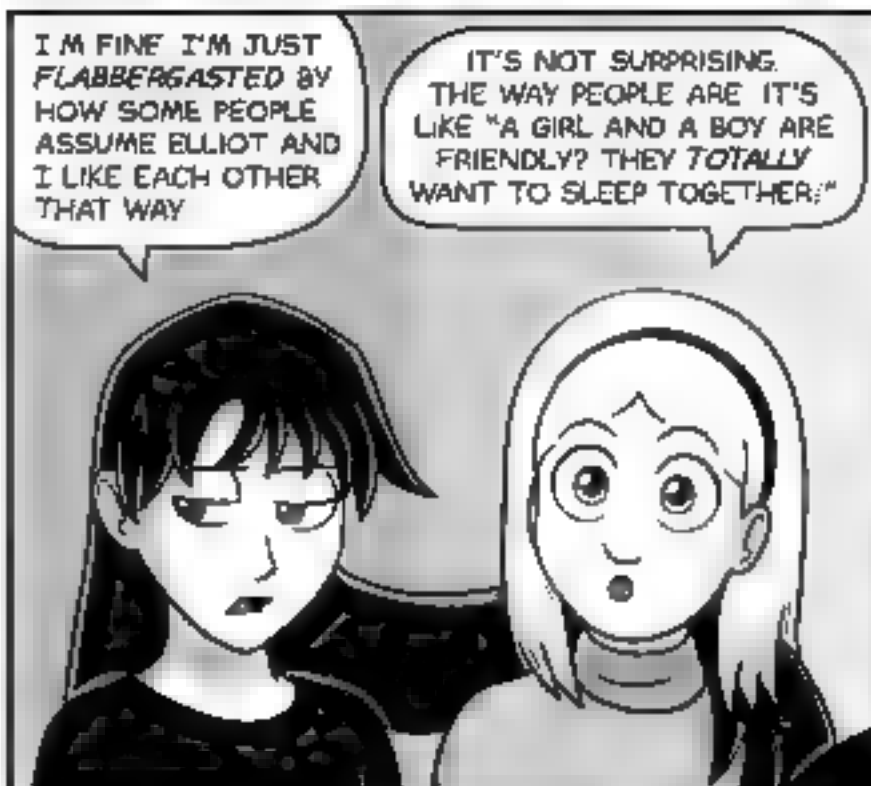
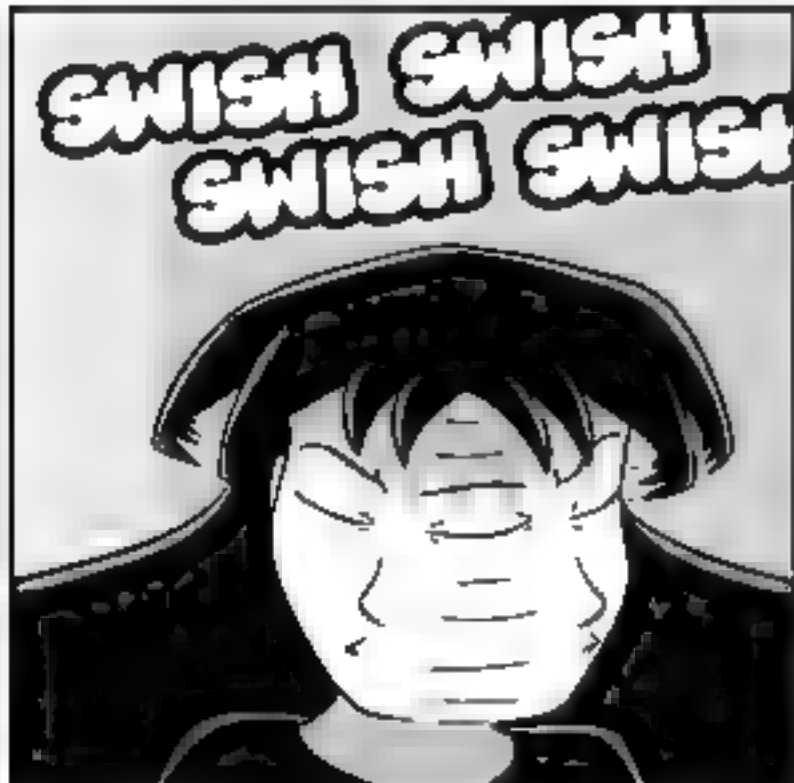
SHE. WHAT?!



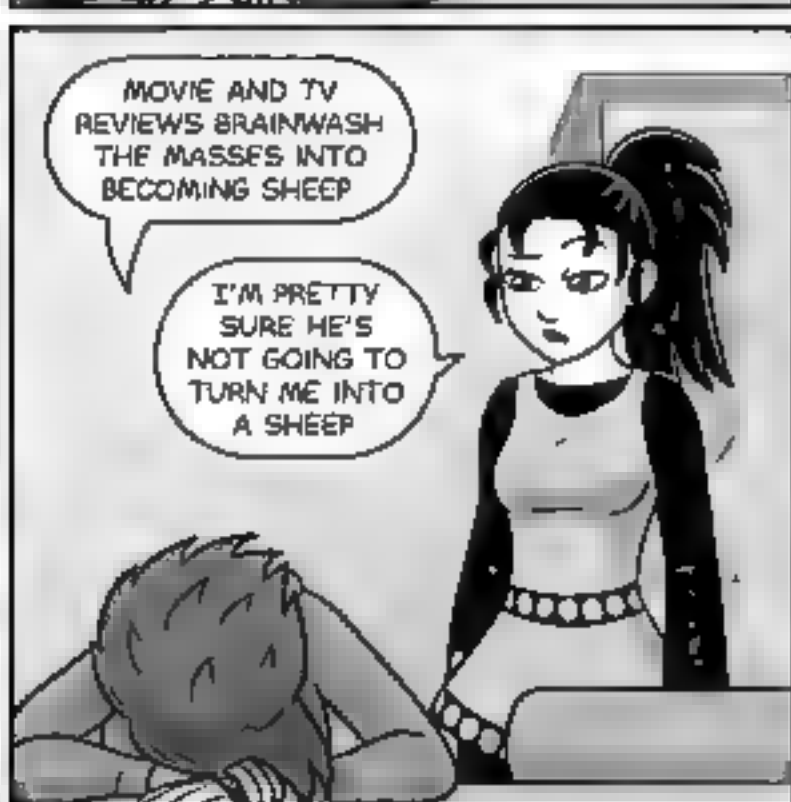
I ALSO MIGHT HAVE
ASKED HER OUT

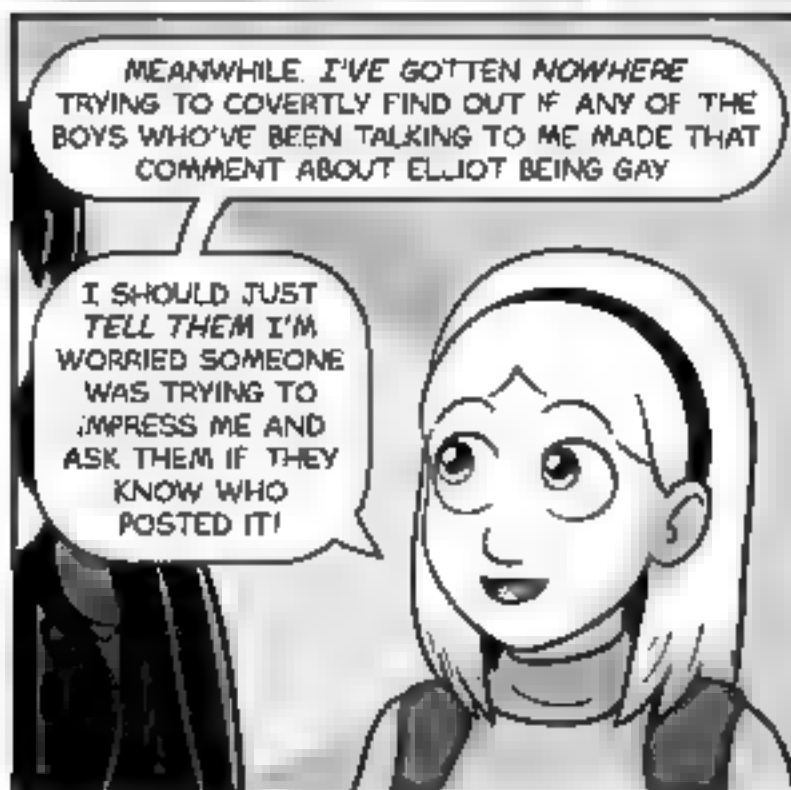
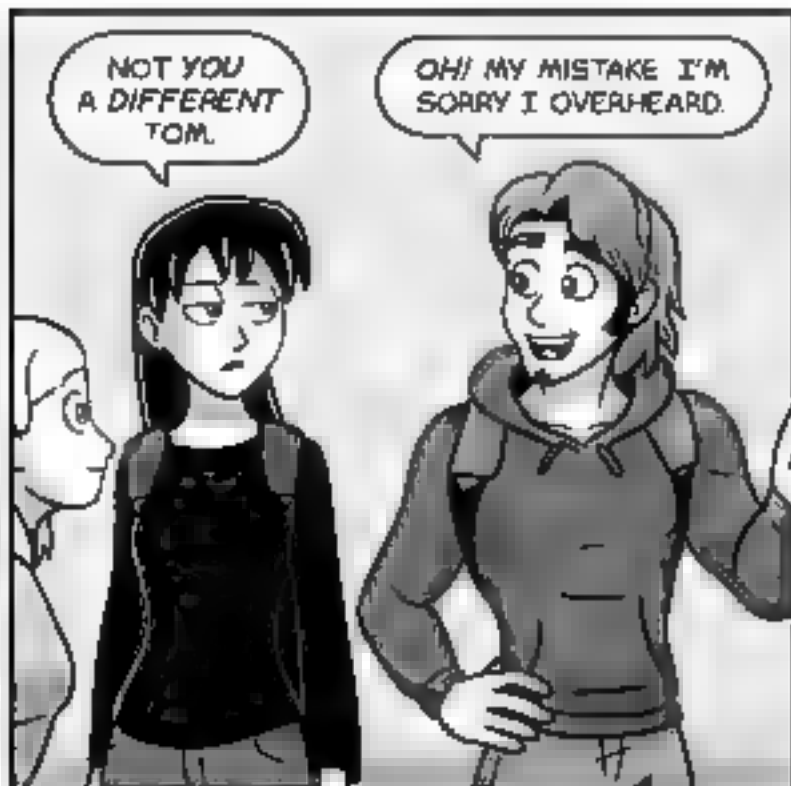
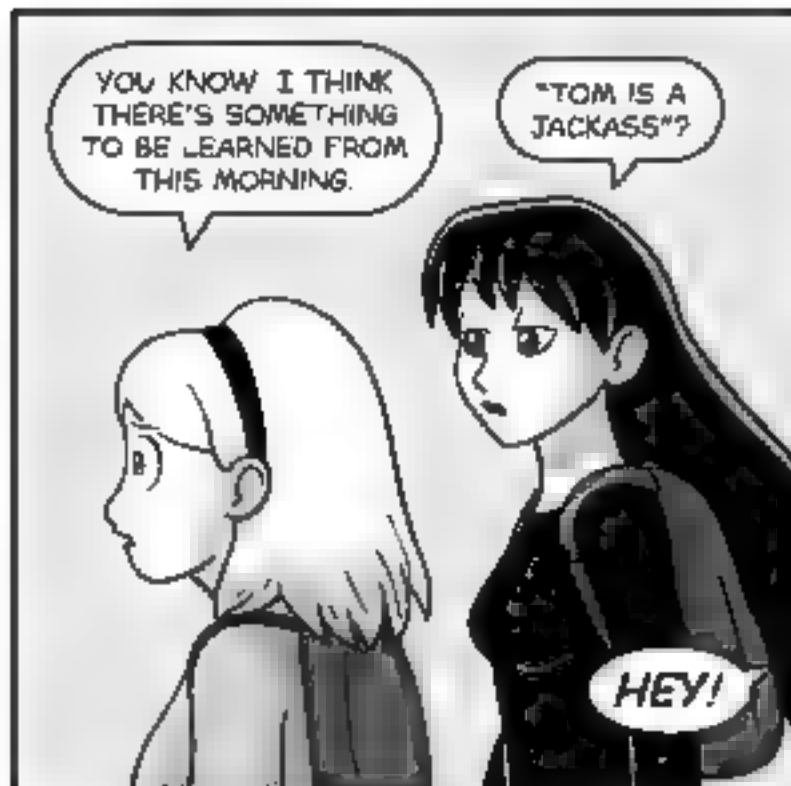






Soon after Ashley said "bye, everyone"







I DON'T KNOW WHO MADE THAT COMMENT AND OF COURSE THERE'S NO REASON TO SUSPECT ME BECAUSE OH RIGHT I NEVER TOLD YOU I'M GAY



I CAN THINK OF PEOPLE DUMB ENOUGH TO TRY THAT BUT I DON'T THINK ANY OF THEM DID IT ARE YOU SURE ELLIOT'S NOT GAY?

DARN.
I'M AT LEAST EIGHTY-FIVE PERCENT CERTAIN.



I WOULDN'T HAVE DONE SUCH A THING EVEN IF I WASN'T GAY, BUT I WOULD NOT SURPRISE ME IF SOMEONE WERE TO TRY AND ACCUSE YOU IN SUCH A WAY IN SPITE OF YOUR OBVIOUS INHERENT FLAWS IN YOUR PLAN, THAT IS ALSO THE CASE WITH THAT WHATEVER YOU WERE SAYING ABOUT ME. WHEN I HEARD YOUR HOPES WERE YOU TO MAKE SUCH A PRESUMPTUOUSLY RESPECTFUL COMMENT ABOUT ME.



THAT COMMENT WAS RIDICULOUS. "THEY'RE STILL FRIENDS, SO HE MUST BE GAY!"

I WAS IN A RELATIONSHIP WHEN I REALIZED I WAS GAY AND IT DID NOT END WITH US BEING FRIENDLY AND HAPPY WITH EACH OTHER I CAN TELL YOU THAT!



SO I WAS JUST WONDERING IF YOU CAN THINK OF ~~ANYONE~~ WHO...?

I DO KNOW A LOT OF PEOPLE WHO SAY DUMB THINGS WHILE TRYING TO SOUND SMART ONLINE. BUT I DON'T THINK ANY OF THEM WOULD POST THAT



CASUAL STATEMENT CONFIRMING HE'S GAY IN THREE TWO

IS SOMETHING WRONG?



A RESTAURANT SOUNDS GOOD BUT THERE'S A LOT WE COULDN'T TALK ABOUT THERE

WE DON'T HAVE TO TALK ABOUT THAT STUFF RIGHT AWAY



THAT'S A GOOD POINT MAYBE DINNER, THEN GO BACK TO MY PLACE?

WHY ELLIOT! HOW FORWARD OF YOU!



WHAT? OH! I-I DIDN'T MEAN..!

I'M JUST TEASING YOU



OH. HEHE OF COURSE.

WHAT?

MOSTLY

GIGGLE



HEY, TONY! I THINK ELLIOT DUNKEL'S GOT A DATE WITH A GIRL!

I TOLD YOU HE WAS STRAIGHT



YOU TOLD ME HE WAS GAY!

MAN. WHEN DO I EVER CALL SOMEONE GAY WHO'S ACTUALLY GAY? HONESTLY



I THOUGHT MAYBE SINCE YOU USED TO BE FRIENDS WITH HIM...

YEAH, IN LIKE THIRD GRADE OR SOMETHING. DON'T BLAME ME FOR THAT "OOH, LOOK AT ME, I'M SO SMART" COMMENT YOU POSTED "RONIN"

YOU ALREADY ASKED HER OUT?!

I KNOW IT HASN'T
BEEN THAT LONG SINCE
WE BROKE UP BUT

THAT'S NOT
WHAT I MEANT
THAT'S FINE.

IT IS?

HOW DO YOU GO FROM HER WANTING TO TALK
ABOUT TOM AND ME, AND HER SEEING... THAT,
TO YOU ASKING HER OUT?

AND I'M GUESSING
SHE SAID "YES" IN
SPITE OF ..?

I THINK IN PART
BECAUSE OF

WELL... AH... THAT'S A
BIT COMPLICATED...

BECAUSE OF?

IN PART SHE ALREADY
LIKED ME FROM THE SHOW

OH... DOES
SHE UM... "SWING
BOTH WAYS"?

SWING? WHAT SWING?

NO NO, DOES
SHE LIKE APPLES...
AND ORANGES?

I DON'T KNOW HER
FRUIT PREFERENCES.

BISEXUAL
IS SHE
BISEXUAL.

OH! I DUNNO. MAYBE?



DESCRIBING YOURSELF
CLOUD WATCHING IN AN OPEN
FIELD... THAT'S ONE WAY TO
SAY "HELLO" ONLINE.

SHOULD I BE
CONCERNED ABOUT
TALL GRASS?



I WANTED
TO IMAGINE
MYSELF DOING
SOMETHING
RELAXING.

AND SINCE
IT'S IMAGINED, I
DON'T HAVE TO
WORRY ABOUT
GETTING DIRT
AND SUCH ON
MYSELF



ROUGH DAY HUH?

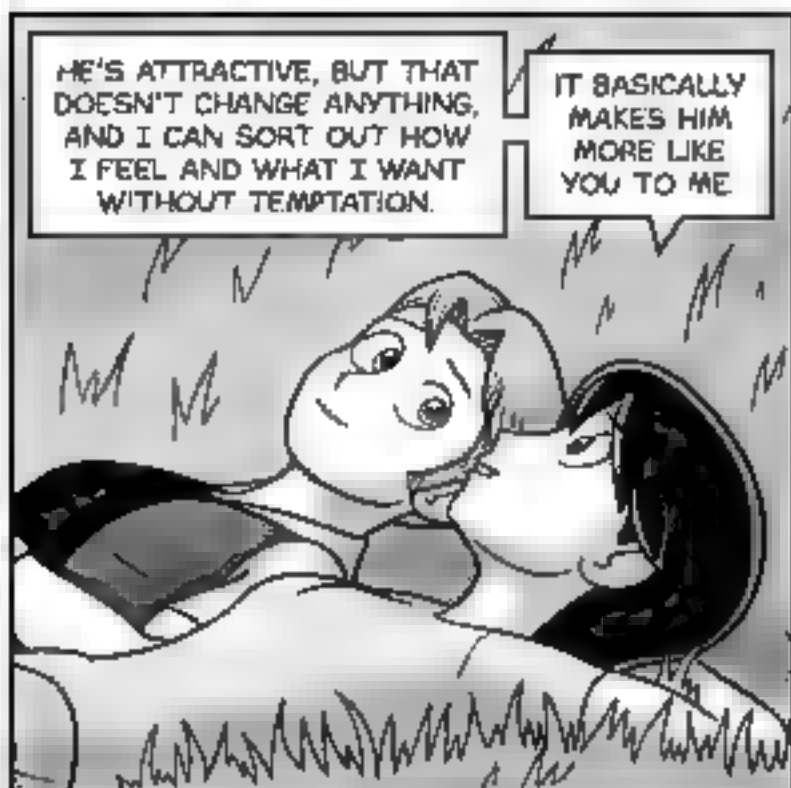


HOLY CRAP

MY
THOUGHTS
EXACTLY

SOME GUY I THOUGHT COULD BE A NEW
FRIEND TURNED OUT TO BE A PICK UP ARTIST
AND ELLIOT ASKED OUT A CUTE GIRL WHO SEEMS
COOL AND MAY OR MAY NOT BE BISEXUAL AND
SHE KNOWS HE TURNS INTO A GIRL

A bit of more thorough recappery later





A MESSAGE
FROM SUSAN...



ACTUALLY I,
UH, THINK SHE
LOOKS ALMOST-
IDENTICAL... TO
YOU

WHAT?! NO SHE... OKAY,
HER FACE IS *MAYBE* A
LITTLE SIMILAR TO MINE
BUT THAT HAIR IS *TOTALLY*
A DIFFERENT COLOR.



YES! WELL, HE SAID
"SISTER" BUT WHO ELSE
COULD THAT MEAN?

NANASE?



YOU DON'T
KNOW SHE IS.
NOT FOR SURE.
YOU DON'T

JUST BECAUSE THE
EVIDENCE IS OVER-
WHELMING DOESN'T...
JUST READ IT



Hello. This is Susan from the
review show. I'm sure you know
which one I mean, though we
should *probably* come up with
a name for it at some point.

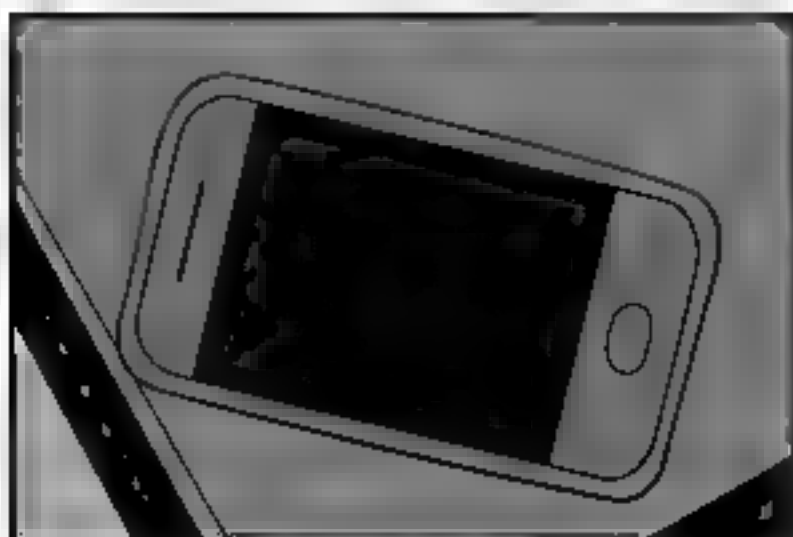
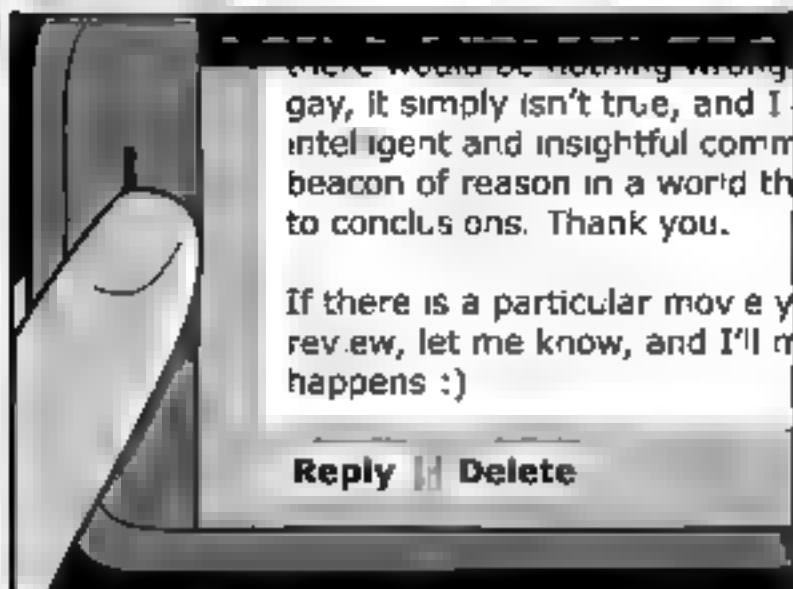
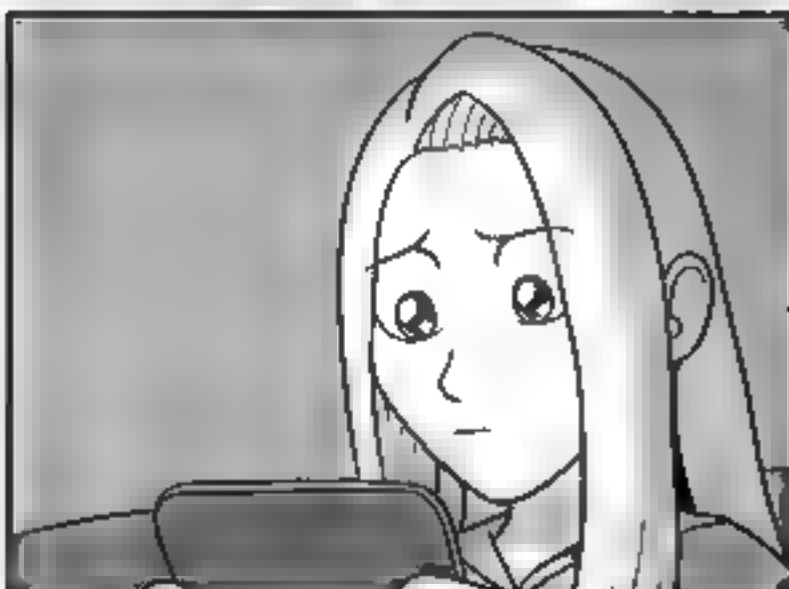
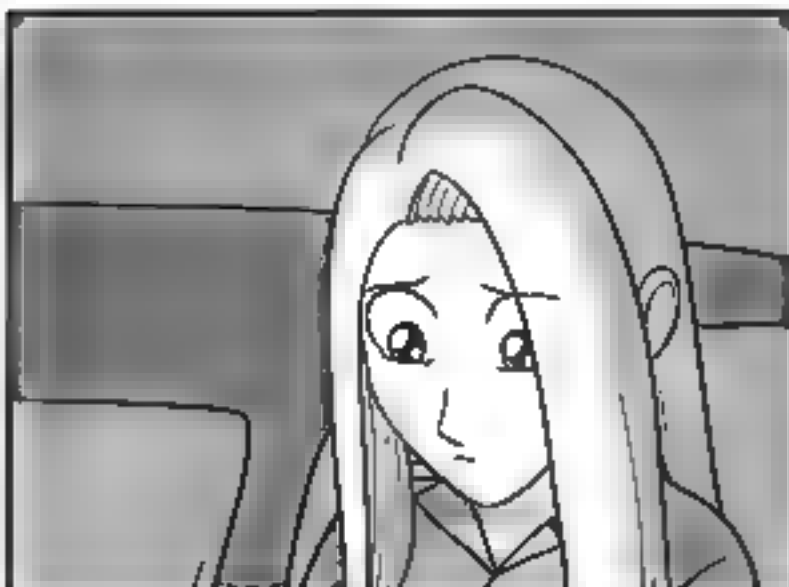
In any case, I wanted to thank
you. While there would be
nothing wrong with Elliot being
gay, it simply isn't true, and I
appreciate your intelligent and
insightful comments. You are a
beacon of reason in a world that
likes to jump to conclusions.
Thank you

If there is a particular movie
you'd like us to review, let me
know, and I'll make sure it
happens :)



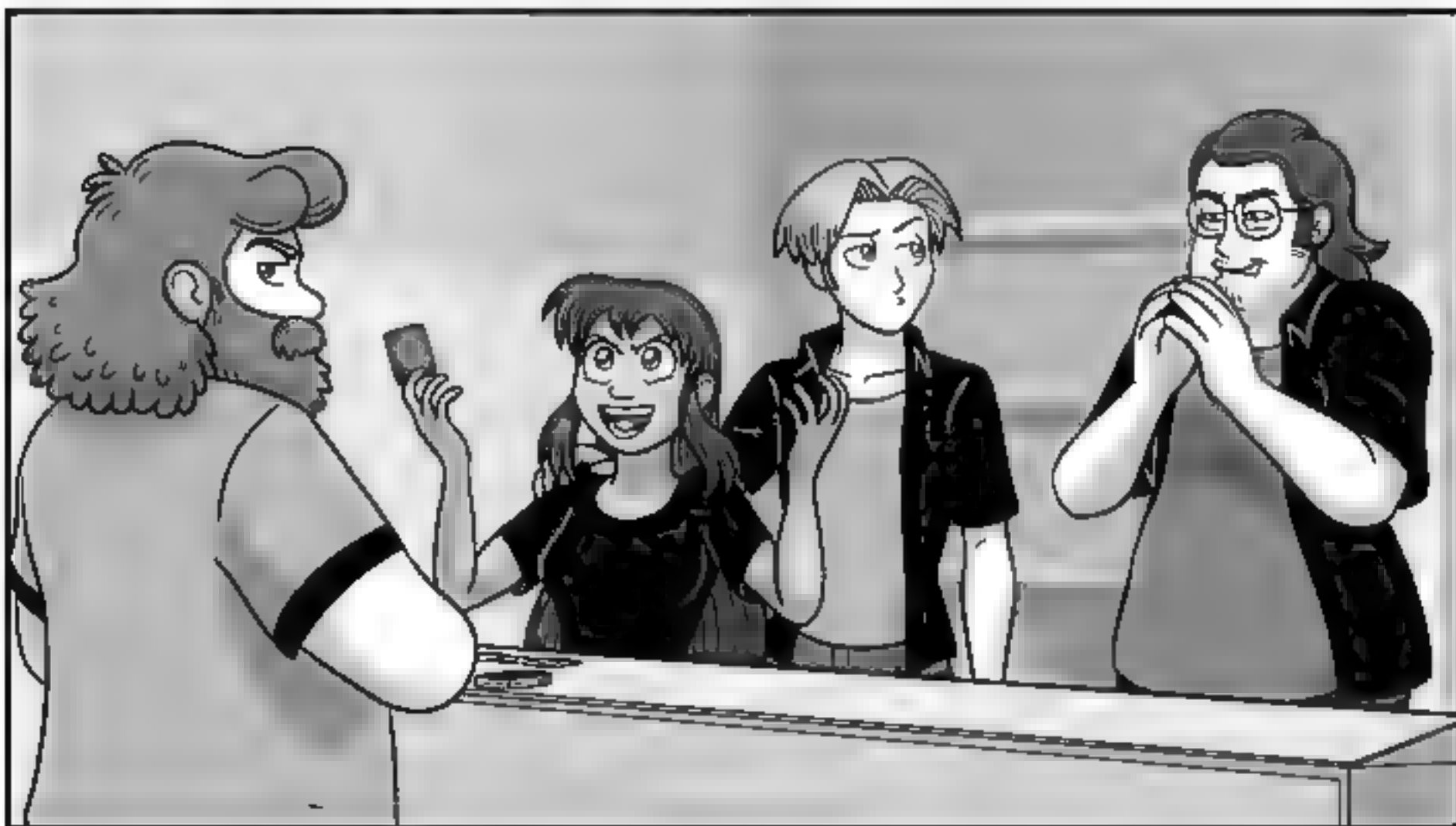
THIS IS
FROM MY
SISTER.



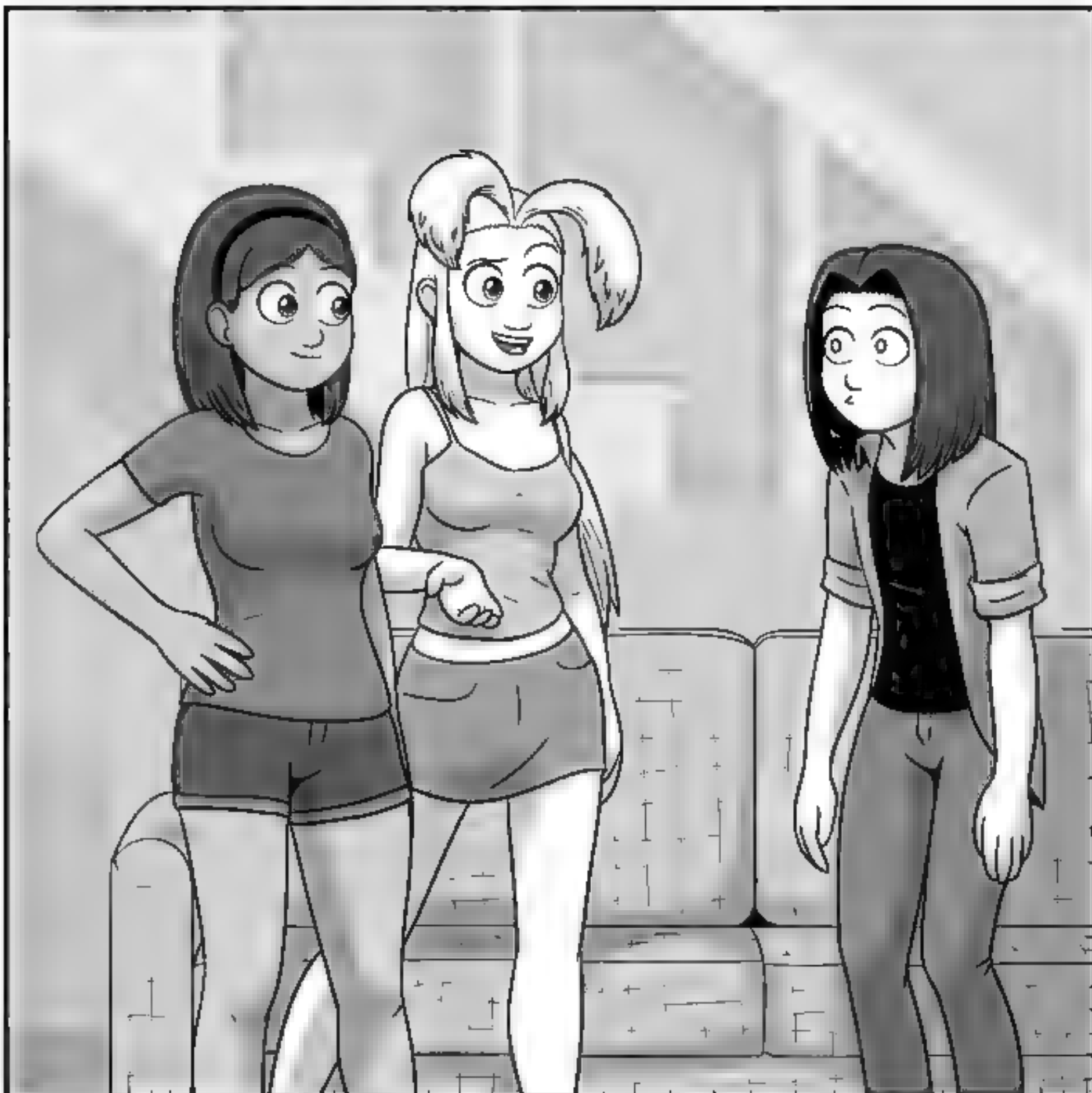


Identity - The end

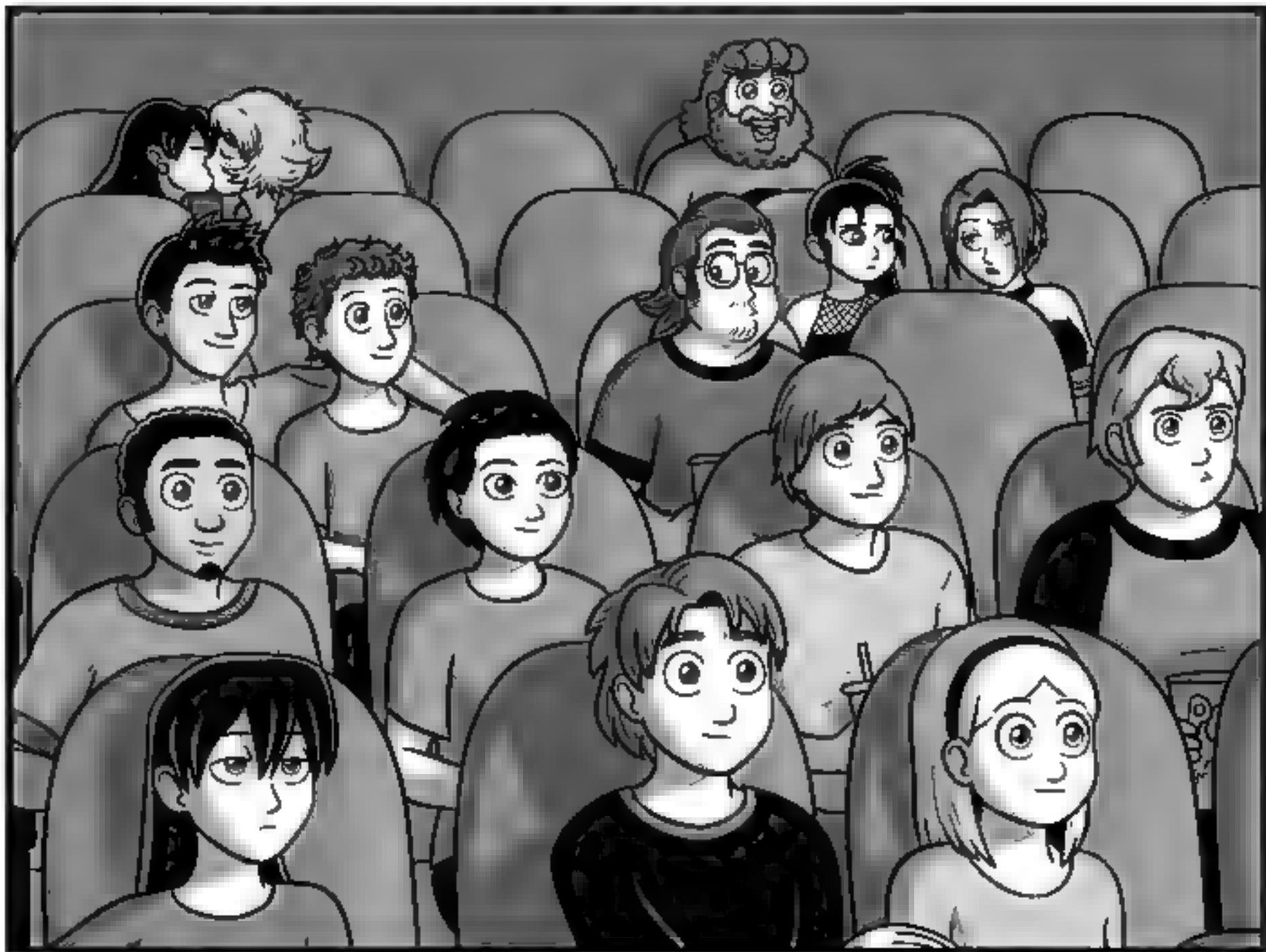
Summer Moments #1 - "Bad Influence"



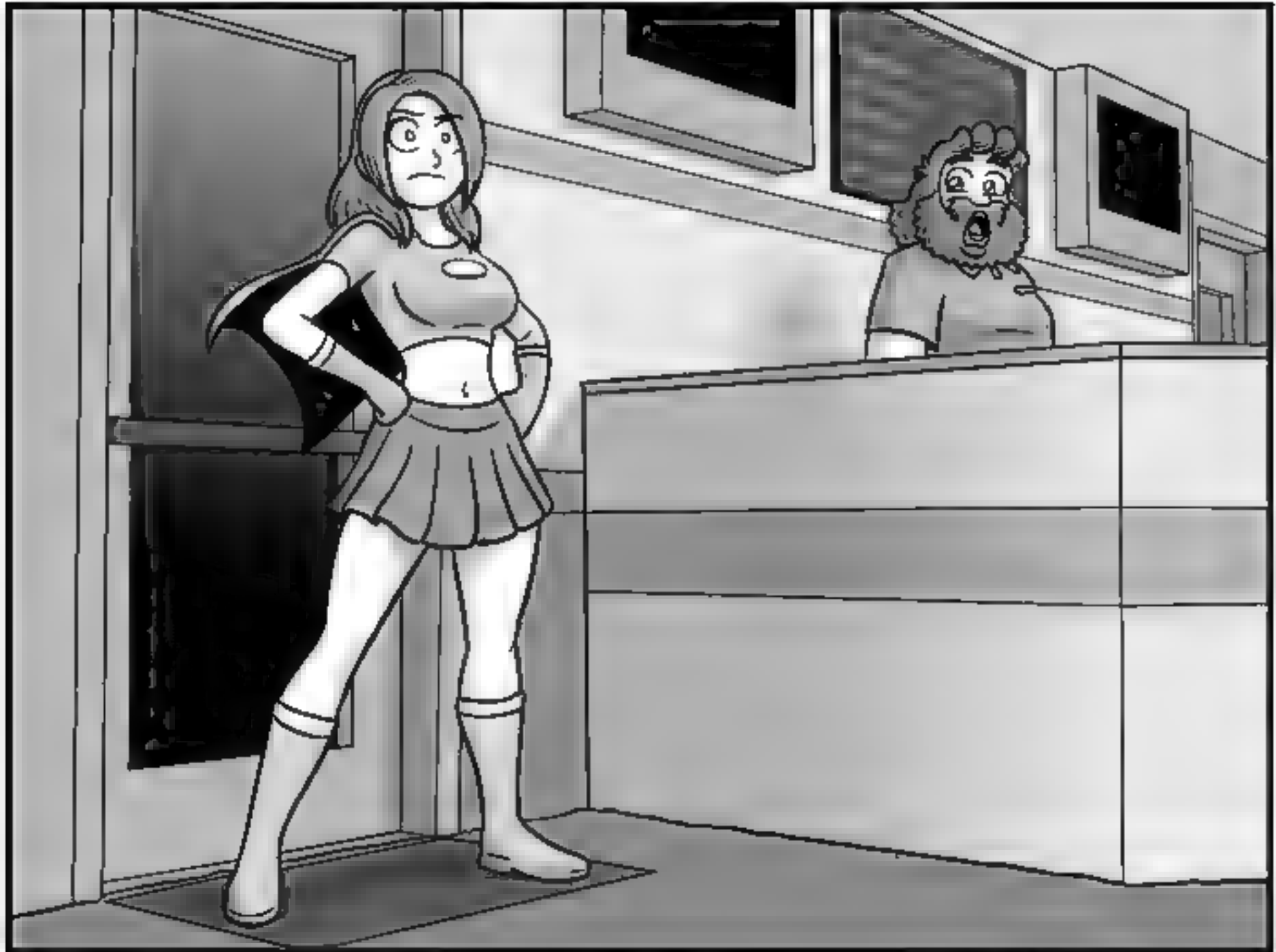
Summer Moments #2 - "Guess Which Of Us Is Who"



Summer Moments #3 - "At The Movies"



Previous Summer Moments #4 - "A Perfect Plan"



Previous Summer Moments #5 - "Hazards Of Clone Form Pranking"



SO IN CONCLUSION,
EVERY BELOVED HISTORICAL
FIGURE WAS HORRIBLE IN
SOME WAY



MS.. *SQUIRREL*, THAT ASSERTION
IS *NOT* CONSISTENT WITH WHAT
IS IN YOUR TEXTBOOKS



OUR *TEXTBOOKS*
LEAVE OUT A LOT
OF STUFF



DO THEY NOW? AND
WHERE DID YOU *DISCOVER*
THIS "LEFT OUT" STUFF?
THE *INTERNET*?



SOME OF IT BUT
I VERIFIED THEIR
SOURCES, AND



YOUNG LADY,
THERE'S NOT ONE
THING THAT'S BEEN
POSTED ONLINE
THAT'S TRUE!



ALL OF
THOSE FUNNY
CAT PICTURES?
*COMPUTER
GENERATED!*

THAT'S NOT TRUE!
I'VE MET SOME OF
THOSE CATS!



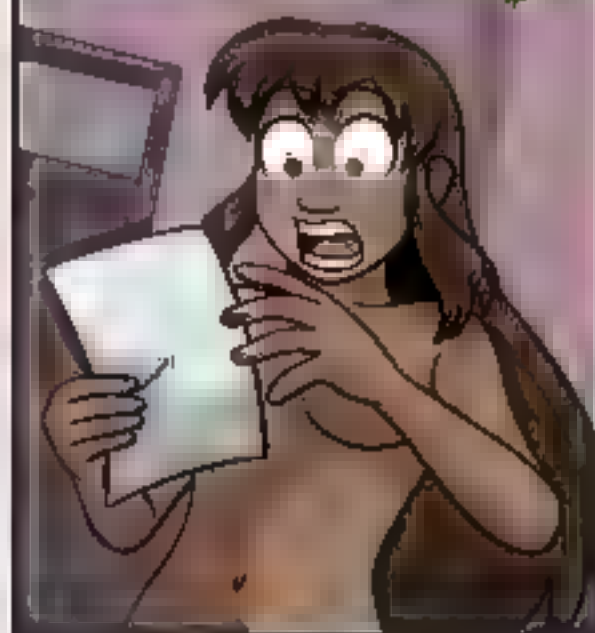
AND WHY
SHOULD WE
LISTEN TO
YOU?

YOU
DIDN'T EVEN
~~REMEMBER~~
TO WEAR
CLOTHES
TODAY!



I WHAT?

EEP!



BUT I'VE GOTTEN SO MUCH
BETTER AT REMEMBERING
TO DO THAT!



ONLY A TOTAL
WEIRDO WOULD FORGET
SOMETHING LIKE THAT!

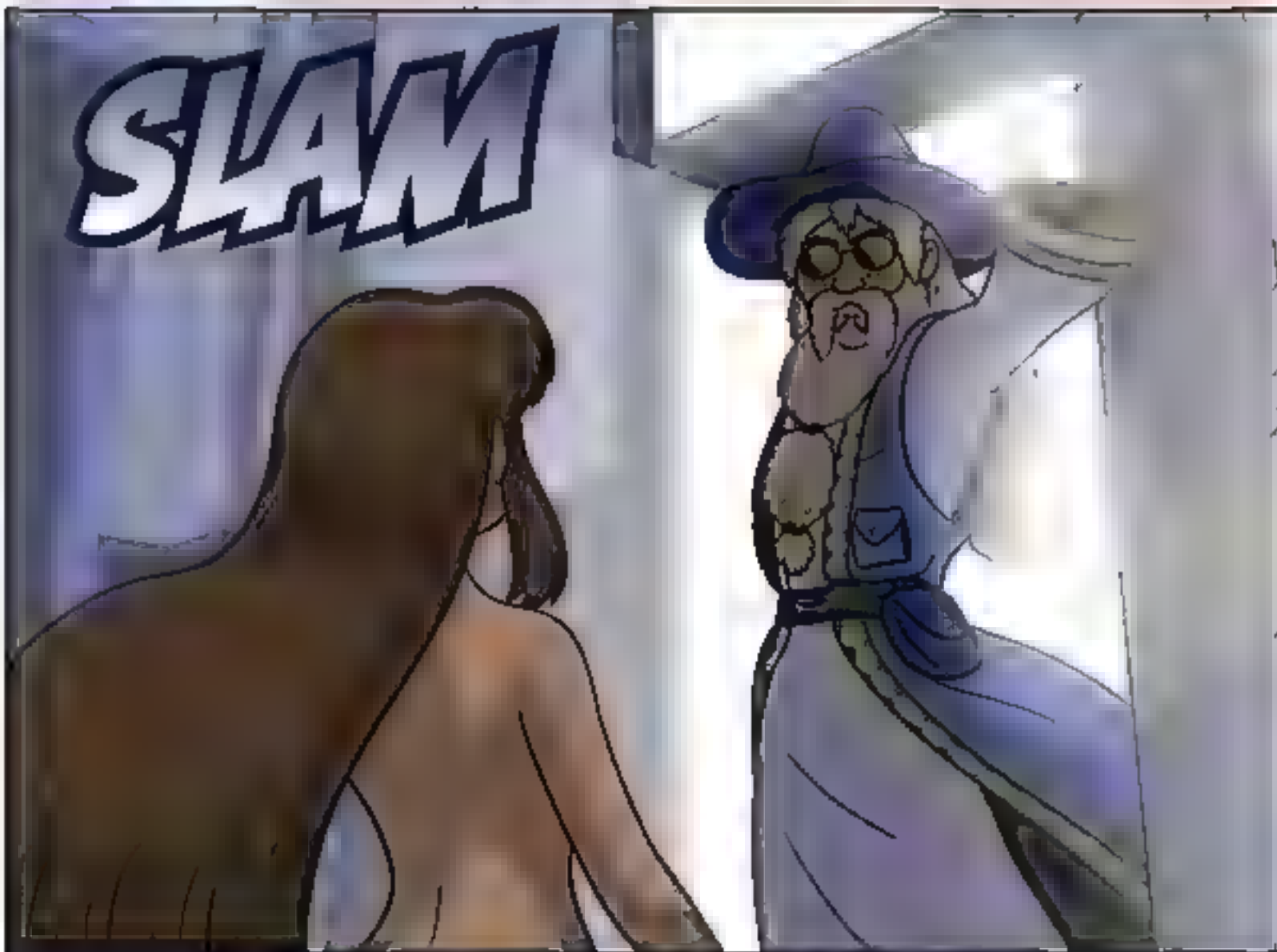
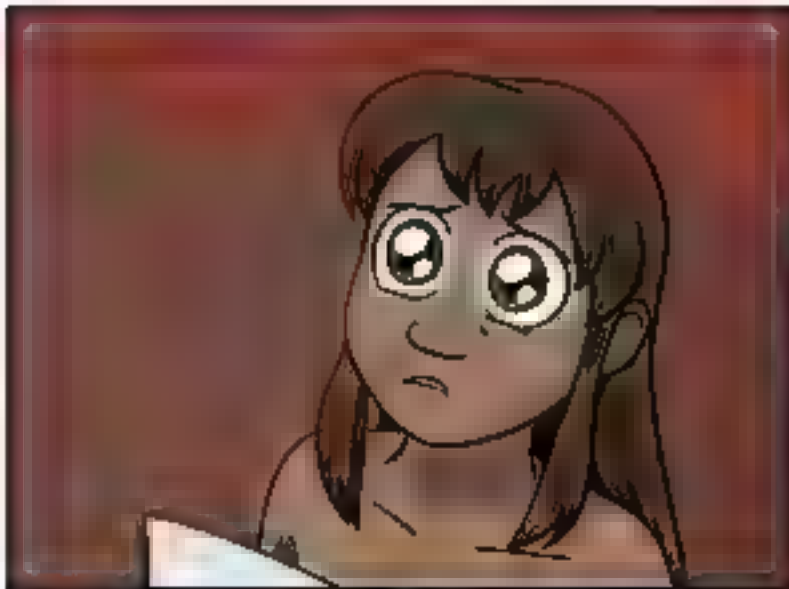


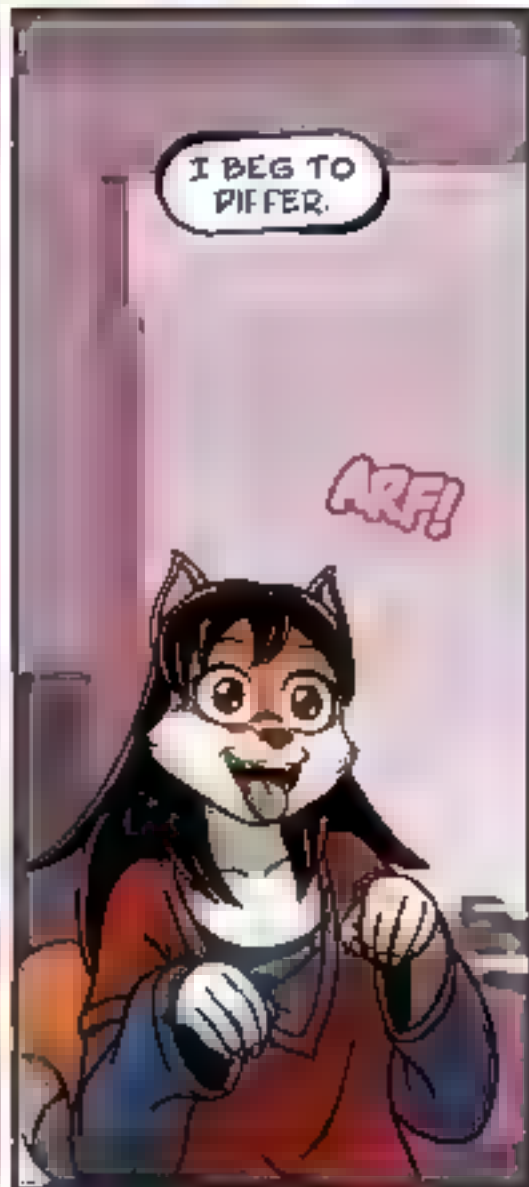
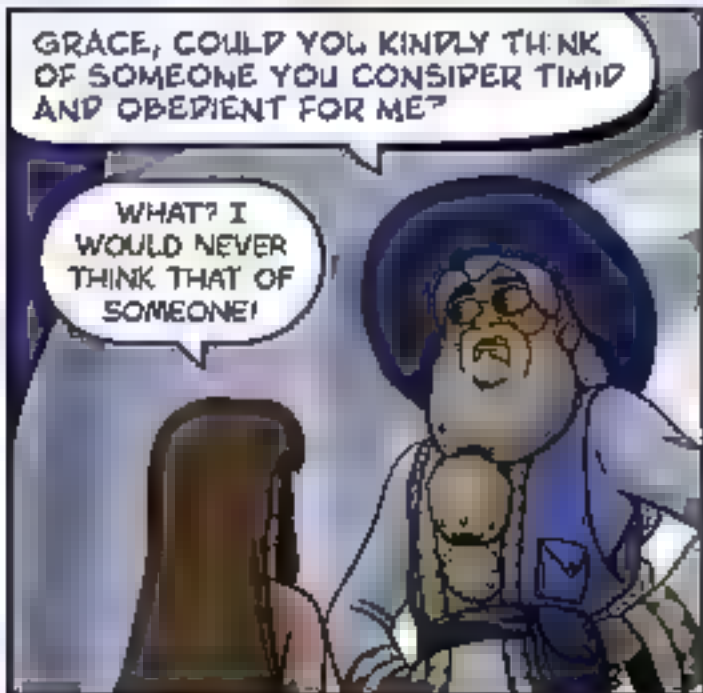
YOU
DON'T BELONG
HERE!

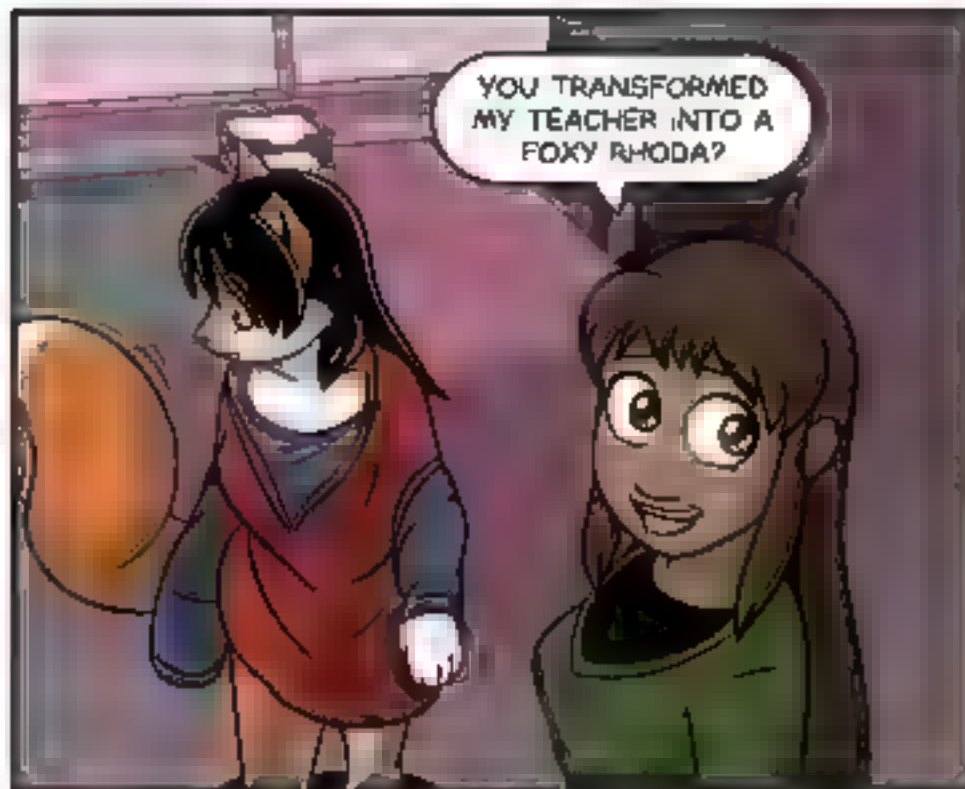


YOU DON'T BELONG
ANYWHERE!







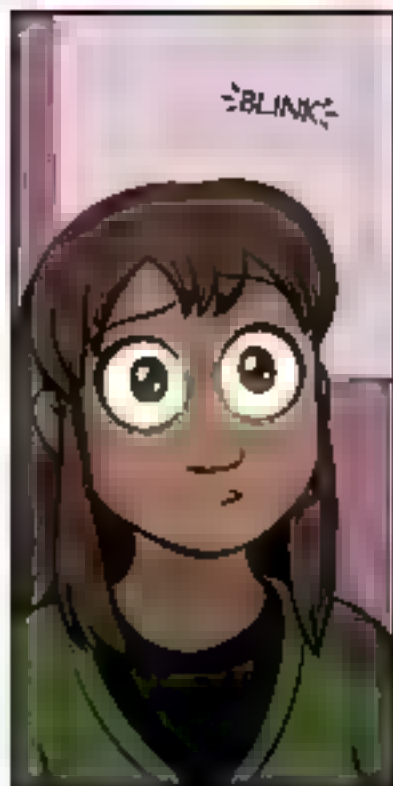


YOU TRANSFORMED
MY TEACHER INTO A
FOXY RHODA?



I MERELY FACILITATED THE
MODIFICATION OF THIS DREAM
USING THE THOUGHTS AND
ASSOCIATIONS BROUGHT INTO
FOCUS WITHIN YOUR SUB-
CONSCIOUS BY VIRTUE OF
HAVING BEEN TRIGGERED BY
MY QUESTION AND THE DREAM
AS IT STOOD PRIOR TO SAID
MODIFICATION

FIXED
A COUPLE
OTHER
THINGS,
WHILE I
WAS AT
IT.



=BLINK=



HE TRANS-
FORMED THAT
WAY BECAUSE
OF HOW YOUR
MIND WORKS.

I ONLY HELPED
IT ALONG ON
ACCOUNT OF
YOU NOT BEING
SKILLED AT
MANIPULATING
LUCID DREAMS.



OH. WELL, I GUESS
ELLEN DOES JOKE
ABOUT RHODA BEING
A PUPPY AND HE DID
HAVE ORANGE HAIR,
WHICH COULD
EXPLAIN THE FOX
ASPECT OF..



WAIT! WHO
ARE YOU, AND WHY
ARE YOU IN MY
DREAM?!



DO YOU NOT
REMEMBER ME
AT ALL?

I.. SORTA
HAVE A SENSE
OF DEJA VU
BUT



I WAS AFRAID OF THAT,
I AM A WIZARD, BUT MORE
IMPORTANTLY, I AM AN
EMISSARY WITH AN
IMPORTANT MESSAGE.

THIS WILL BE MY
THIRD TIME GIVING
IT TO YOU.

AN EMISSARY?
LIKE A DIPLOMAT?

“GASP”
AM I—

YOU'RE NOT
A PRINCESS.

SORRY,
THIRD TIME
HERE, THIRD
TIME ASKED

ISN'T THERE ETIQUETTE
FOR EMISSARIES? LIKE MAYBE
KNOCK BEFORE ENTERING
A PERSON'S DREAM? I
COULD'VE BEEN NAKED!

WAAAIT A MINUTE..
I WAS NAKED!

WHICH I'D BE TOTALLY FINE
WITH IF YOU WERE SOMEONE I
KNEW AND TRUSTED. BUT YOU'RE
SOME CREEPY DREAM INVADER
GUY IN A COOL HAT!

I AM SORRY FOR
THIS, BUT I MUST. I AM ONLY
ABLE TO REMEMBER ALL THE
DETAILS OF THE MESSAGE
WHILE USING THIS MEANS TO
CONTACT YOU.

THAT'S... BUT
THERE'S LIKE MAYBE
A ONE IN TEN
CHANCE I'LL EVEN
REMEMBER THIS
TOMORROW WHY.

I AM HERE
ON BEHALF OF
**MAGIC
ITSELF.**

I MAKE NO
CLAIM OF TRULY
UNDERSTANDING HOW
THE MIND OF SUCH A
THING WORKS.

OR MAYBE
“MINDS” IS
MORE ACCURATE
I'M NOT REALLY
SURE.

HECK, “MIND”,
SINGULAR OR
PLURAL, MIGHT
NOT EVEN BE
APPLICABLE

ANYWAY, DON'T BOTHER ASKING FOR THE SPECIFICS OF HOW BEING MAGIC'S EMISSARY WORKS. IT'S TOO COMPLICATED TO GET INTO.

WHAT MATTERS IS THAT MAGIC HAS A WILL AND OBJECTIVES OF ITS OWN. EXTREMELY LOOSE OBJECTIVES WITH INHUMANLY NEUTRAL INTENTIONS, BUT OBJECTIVES NONETHELESS.



IS THAT WHY MAGIC HAS A FLAIR FOR THE DRAMATIC? BECAUSE IT'S ONE OF ITS OBJECTIVES?



PRECISELY, WELL, I ASSUME THAT'S WHY.

IT'S BECAUSE MAGIC ITSELF DOESN'T WANT THAT.

IT DOES NOT. THE CURRENT SYSTEM IS INTENDED TO ALLOW FLEXIBILITY IN WHAT SORT OF POWER IS BESTOWED AND WHO IT IS GIVEN TO BY MAKING IT POSSIBLE FOR NEARLY ANYONE TO GET MAGIC.

THE POINT IS THAT EDWARD VERRES IS CORRECT THAT MAGIC WILL NEVER BE IN COMMON USAGE, BUT NOT FOR THE REASONS HE THINKS



NONETHELESS, EVEN THOUGH IT IS CURRENTLY POSSIBLE TO DO SO, MAGIC HAS NO DESIRE TO GO MAINSTREAM AND MAKE ITSELF AVAILABLE TO EVERYONE.

MAGIC IS A FORCE CAPABLE OF DEFYING THE PHYSICAL LAWS OF THE UNIVERSE.

IT DOESN'T HAVE TO WORK THE WAY IT DOES NOW.



CURRENTLY POSSIBLE?



SO YOU'RE
HERE BECAUSE--

NO. TEDD'S NOT
DOING ANYTHING
THAT RISKS A
SYSTEM CHANGE.

SHOULD I EVEN
BOTHER ASKING
QUESTIONS?

SORRY, BUT IT'S
MY THIRD TIME HERE,
AND YOU NEED TO
UNDERSTAND THIS.

THERE ARE CONSTANTS
IN MAGIC. SPECIES WITH
MAGIC INTERWOVEN INTO
THEIR VERY NATURE, SUCH
AS URYUOMS, AREN'T AT
RISK OF SUDDENLY NOT
BEING ABLE TO CHANGE
FORMS.

HOW MAGIC WORKS
FOR HUMANS, HOWEVER, CAN
CHANGE DRASTICALLY.

THERE WILL ALWAYS BE
PEOPLE BORN WITH MAGICAL
TALENT, AND THERE WILL
ALWAYS BE WAYS FOR NON-
TALENTS TO USE MAGIC...

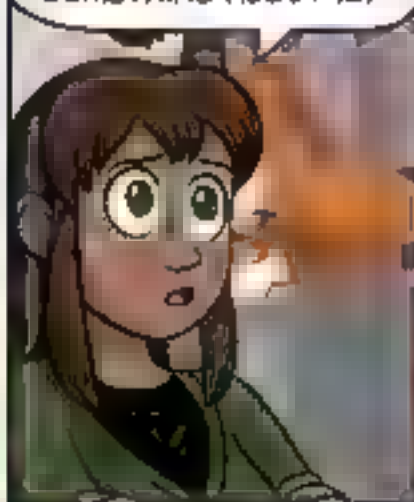
HOW MAGIC POWER CAN BE
GAINED BEYOND HEREDITY,
HOW SPELLS WORK, HOW
DIFFICULT IT ALL IS...

ALL OF THAT IS FLEXIBLE
WITH HUMANS. ALL OF THAT
CAN CHANGE, AND HAS
BEFORE. MANY TIMES.

THAT'S THE THIRD TIME
YOU'VE PICTURED YOUR
FRIEND ACCIDENTALLY
TURNING HERSELF INTO
A MUSCULAR MAN AT
THIS POINT, IT'S A
LITTLE WEIRD?



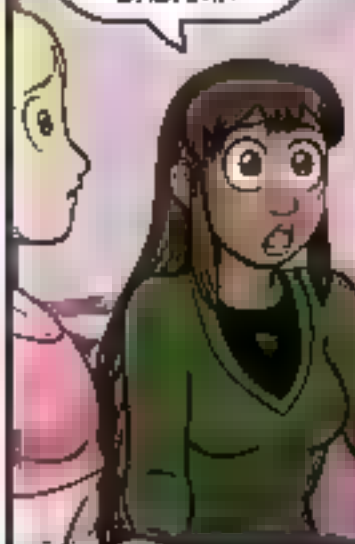
SO IF YOU'RE TELLING
ME ALL THIS, AND
TEDD'S NOT DOING
ANYTHING TO CHANCE A
SYSTEM CHANGE SOME-
THING ELSE THAT WE
MIGHT BE ABLE TO DO
SOMETHING ABOUT IS?



YES, AND IF IT CONTINUES, IT WILL
BE THE MAGICAL EQUIVALENT OF
SOMEONE SUDDENLY CHANGING THE
OPERATING SYSTEMS ON EVERY-
ONE'S COMPUTERS



BUT WHAT'S
THE POINT OF
TELLING ME
WHAT WE HAVE
TO STOP IN A
DREAM?!



THERE'S LIKE, A
NINETY-PERCENT
CHANCE I WON'T
REMEMBER ANY
OF THIS!



IT'S ENTIRELY POSSIBLE
WE'RE INTENTIONALLY
BEING GIVEN POOR ODDS OF
SUCCESS, I SUSPECT THIS IS
LITTLE MORE THAN HALF-
HEARTEDLY FULFILLING SOME...



NINETY-
PERCENT?



UH, MAYBE?
THAT'S WHAT
SOME WEBSITE
SAID.



WHEN AND
WHY DID YOU LOOK
THAT UP?

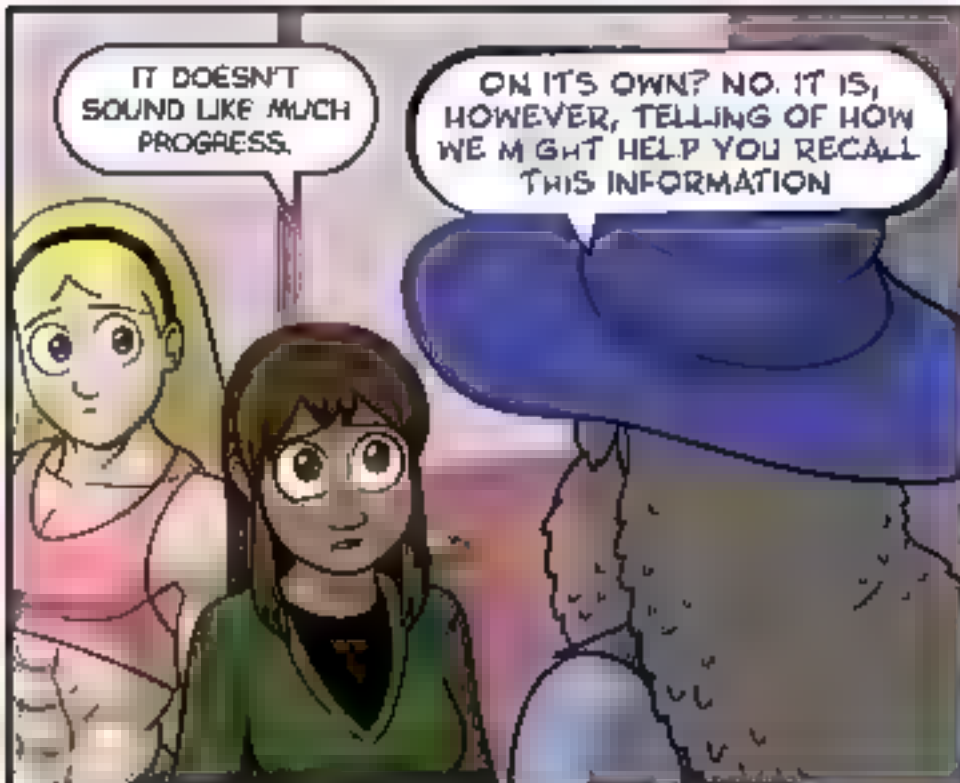


LAST WEEKEND, WE WERE
WATCHING A HARRY POTTER MOVIE
WHEN I STARTED THINKING I'D HAD
A DREAM ABOUT ME AND A WIZARD
IN A CLASSROOM THAT I COULDN'T
CLEARLY REMEMBER. AND I
WAAAAAAAIT A MINUTE



WELL THEN,
PERHAPS WE
ARE MAKING
PROGRESS
AFTER ALL...





IT DOESN'T SOUND LIKE MUCH PROGRESS.

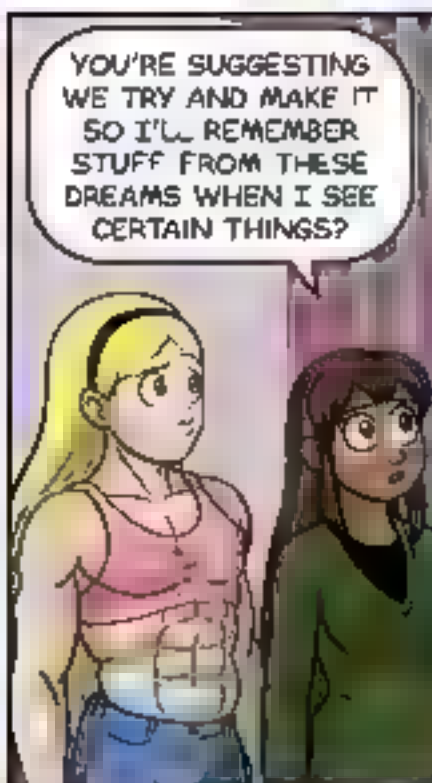
ON ITS OWN? NO. IT IS, HOWEVER, TELLING OF HOW WE MIGHT HELP YOU RECALL THIS INFORMATION



I NEED TO WATCH A HARRY POTTER MARATHON?



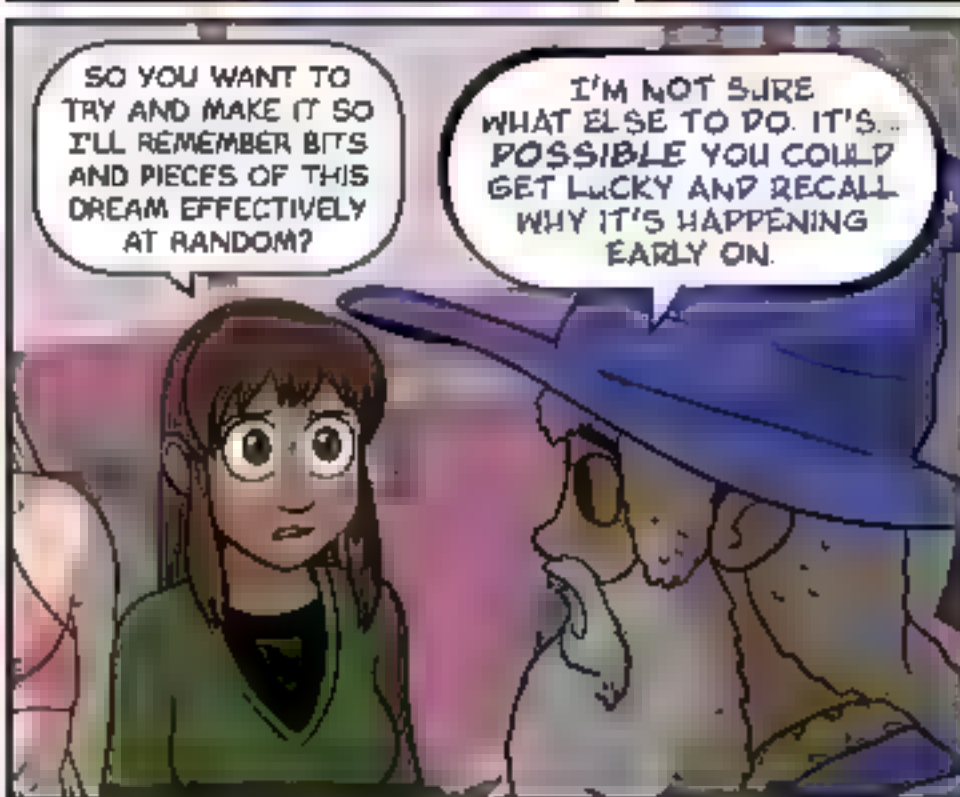
WE NEED TO ESTABLISH ASSOCIATIONS WITH THE INFORMATION SPECIFIC THINGS THAT MIGHT TRIGGER YOU RECALLING IMPORTANT INFORMATION



YOU'RE SUGGESTING WE TRY AND MAKE IT SO I'LL REMEMBER STUFF FROM THESE DREAMS WHEN I SEE CERTAIN THINGS?



SEE, HEAR... THEY COULD BE TRIGGERED IN MANY WAYS. I'M SUGGESTING WE FOCUS ON HELPING THAT ALONG.



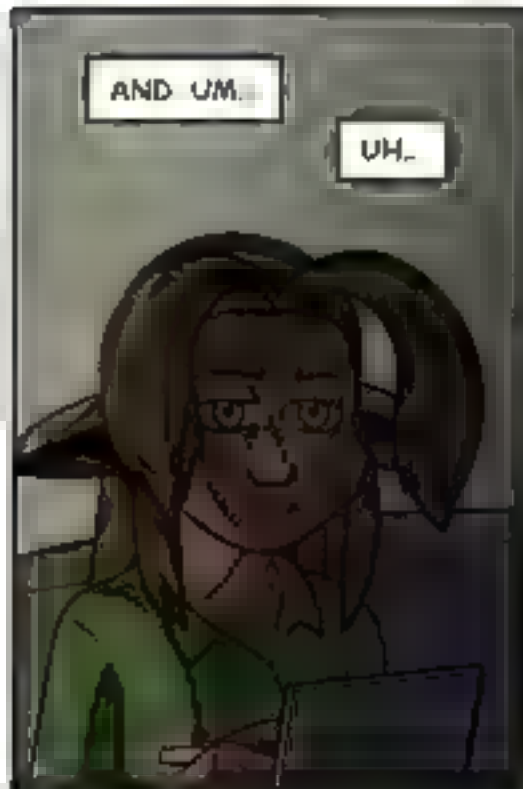
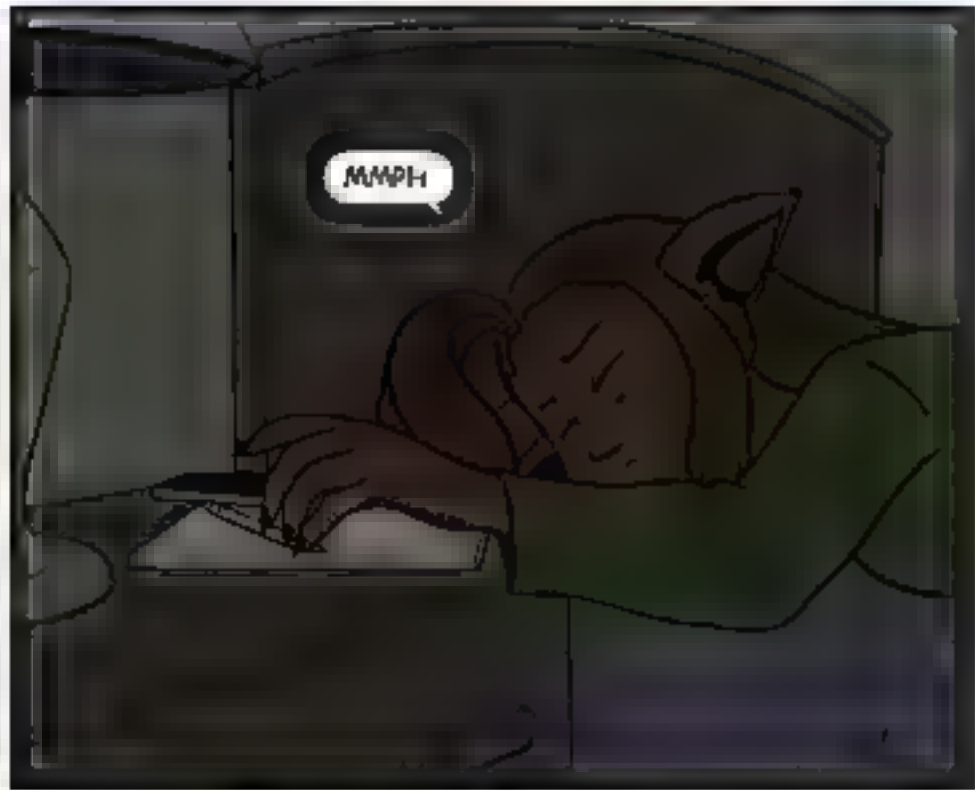
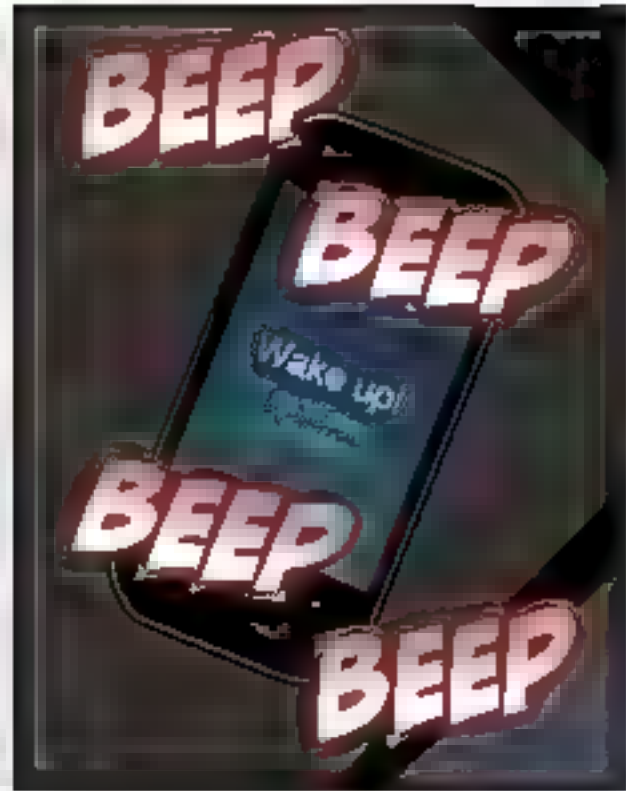
SO YOU WANT TO TRY AND MAKE IT SO I'LL REMEMBER BITS AND PIECES OF THIS DREAM EFFECTIVELY AT RANDOM?

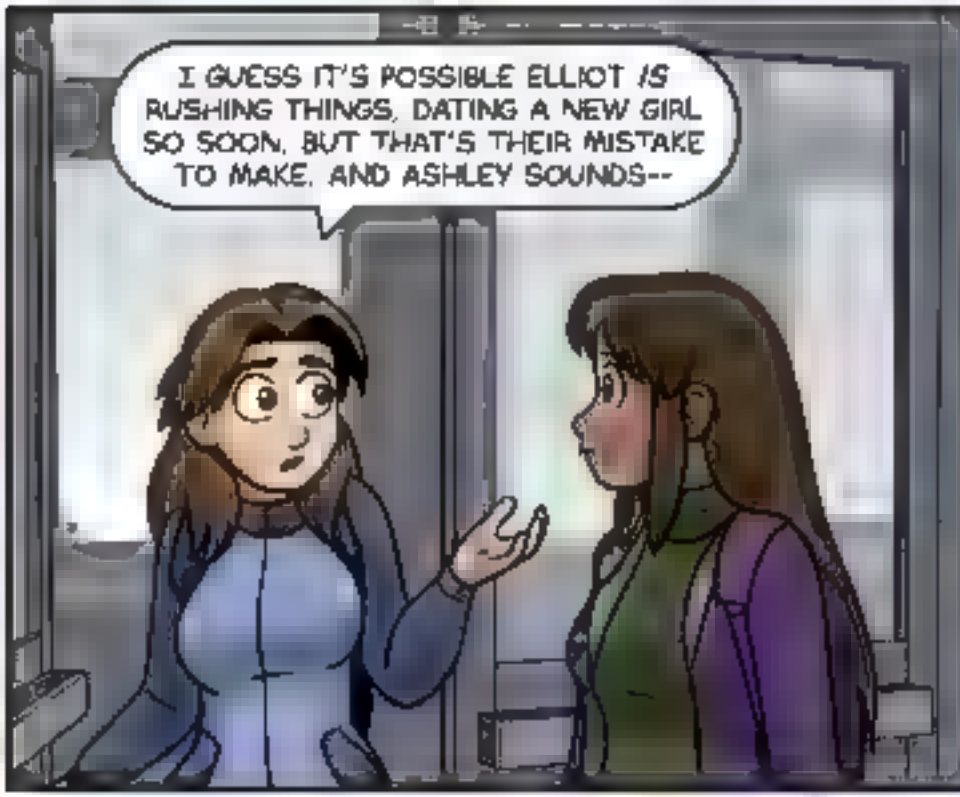
I'M NOT SURE WHAT ELSE TO DO. IT'S POSSIBLE YOU COULD GET LUCKY AND RECALL WHY IT'S HAPPENING EARLY ON.



THIS IS GONNA BE AWKWARD.

OKAY LET'S DO IT



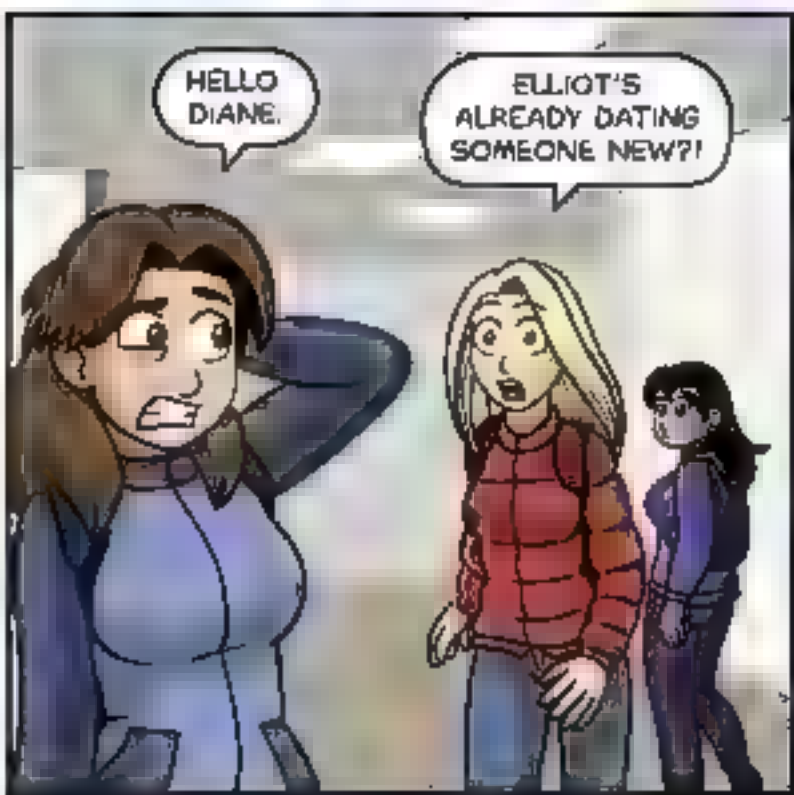


I GUESS IT'S POSSIBLE ELLIOT IS RUSHING THINGS, DATING A NEW GIRL SO SOON, BUT THAT'S THEIR MISTAKE TO MAKE. AND ASHLEY SOUNDS--



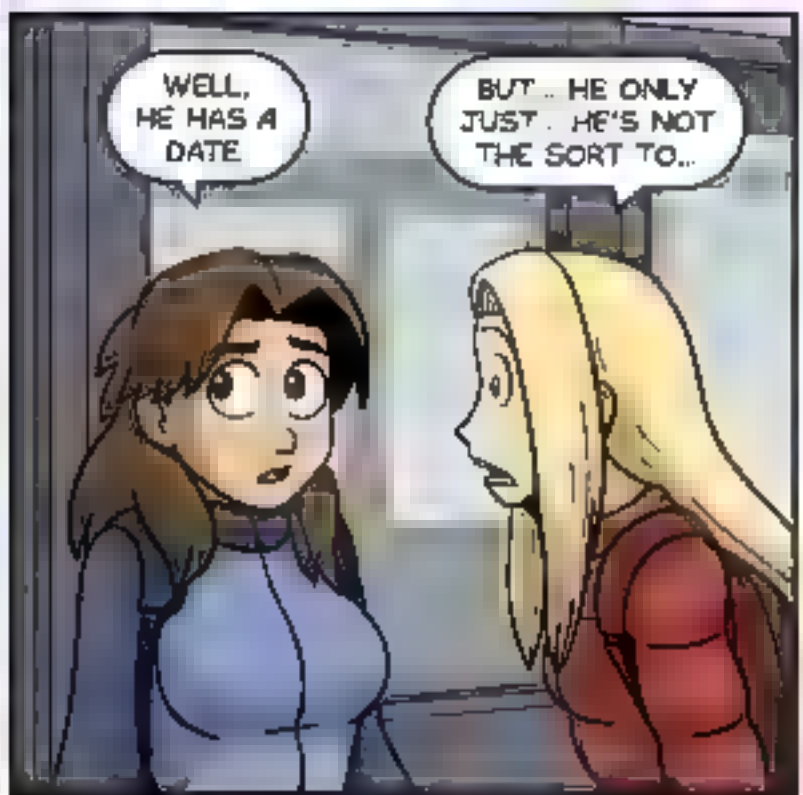
WHAT?!

OH CRAP



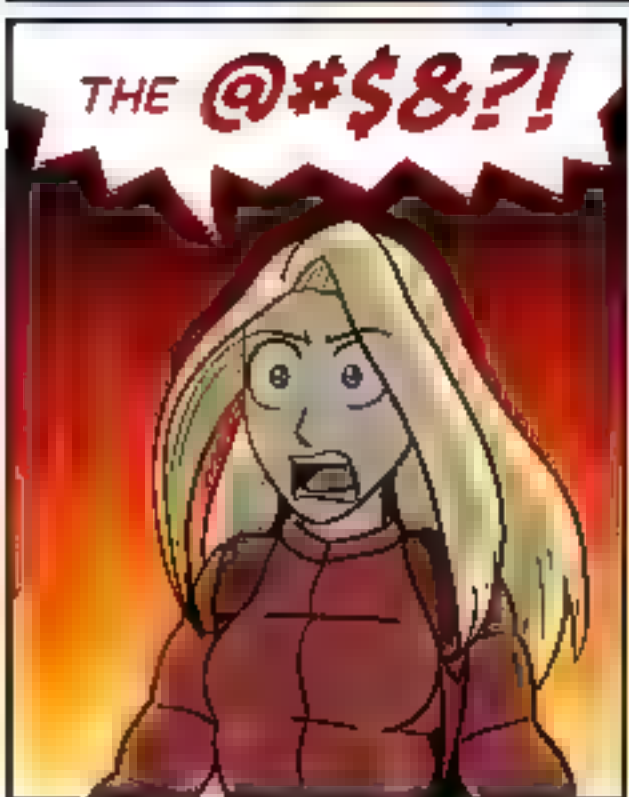
HELLO DIANE.

ELLIOT'S ALREADY DATING SOMEONE NEW?!

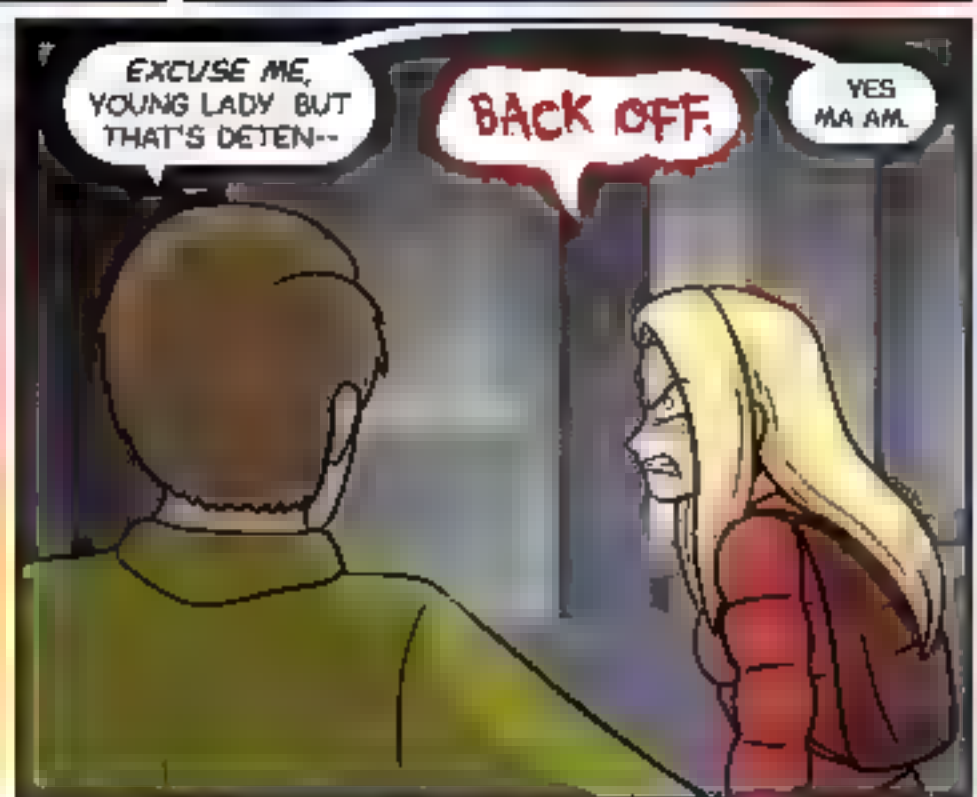


WELL, HE HAS A DATE

BUT... HE ONLY JUST... HE'S NOT THE SORT TO...



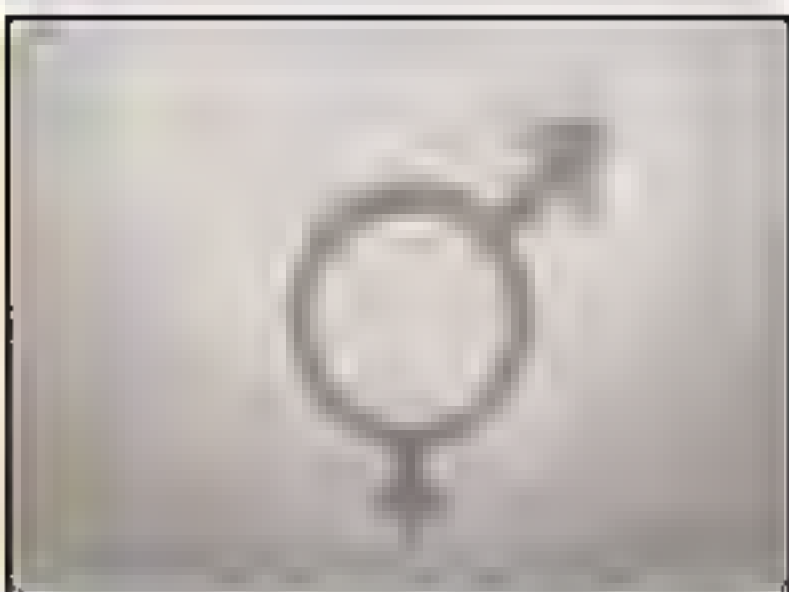
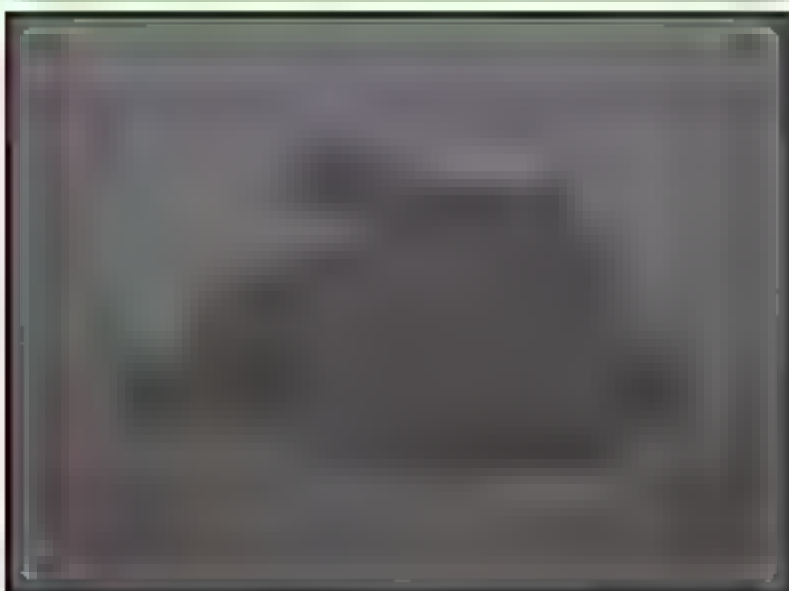
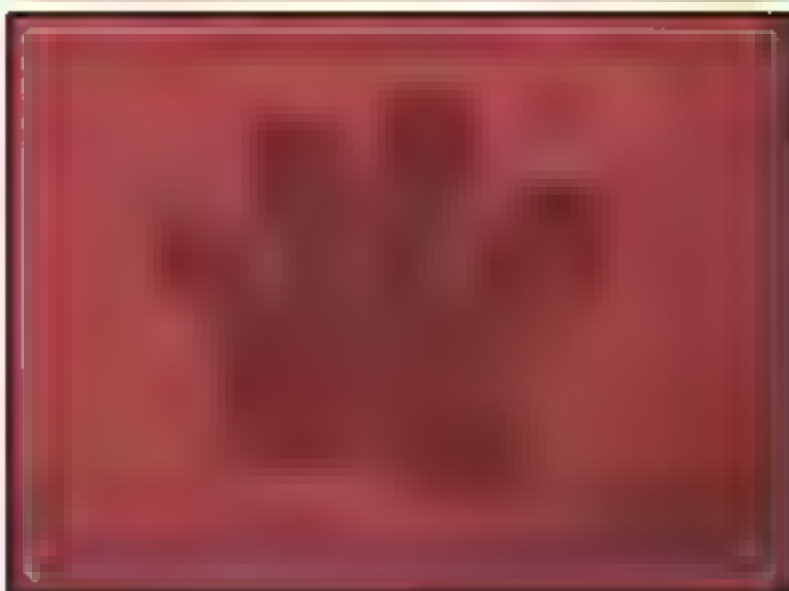
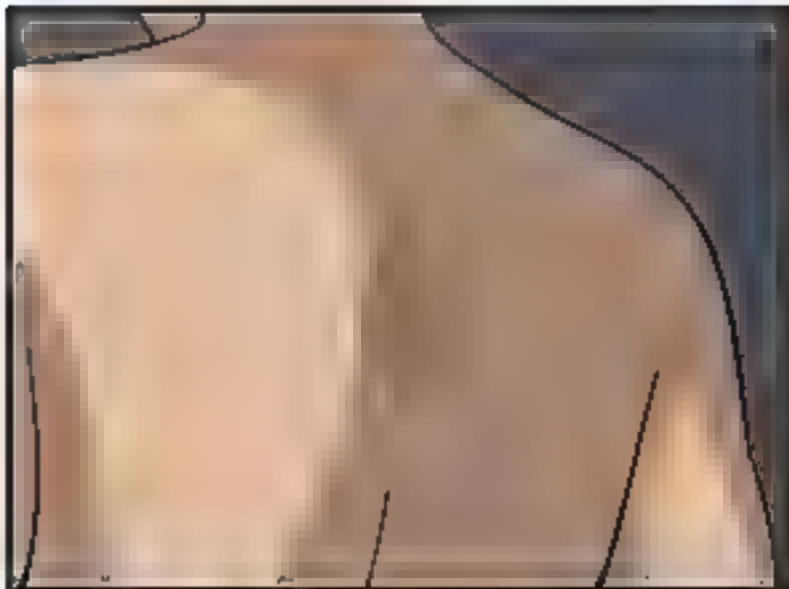
THE @#\$%?!



EXCUSE ME, YOUNG LADY BUT THAT'S DETEN--

BACK OFF.

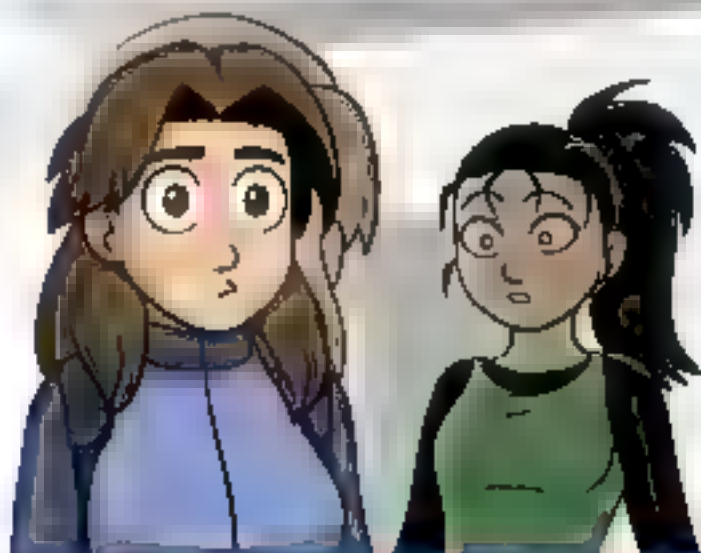
YES MA AM.



IT'S NOT LIKE
ELLIOT WENT
LOOKING FOR A
DATE HE..



WAS APPROACHED BY A GIRL WHO WANTED TO
WARN SUSAN (WHO MIGHT BE YOUR SISTER)
ABOUT HER MANIPULATIVE EX, AND WOUND UP
SEEING HIM TRANSFORM INTO A GIRL, AND SHE'S
APPARENTLY INTO THAT SORT OF THING?

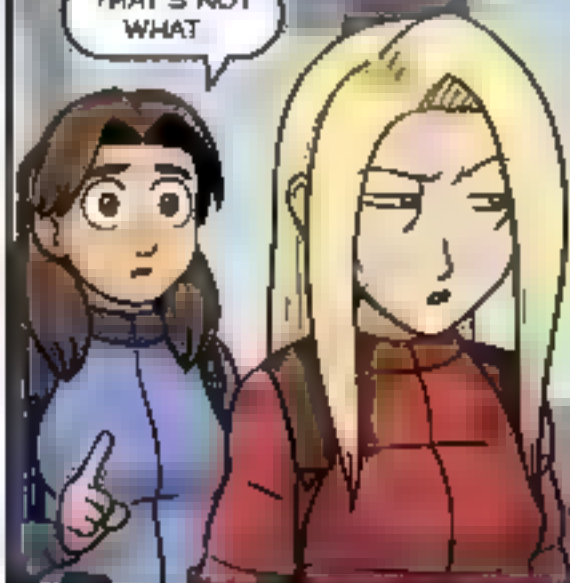


...JUST
SORT OF
HAPPENED?



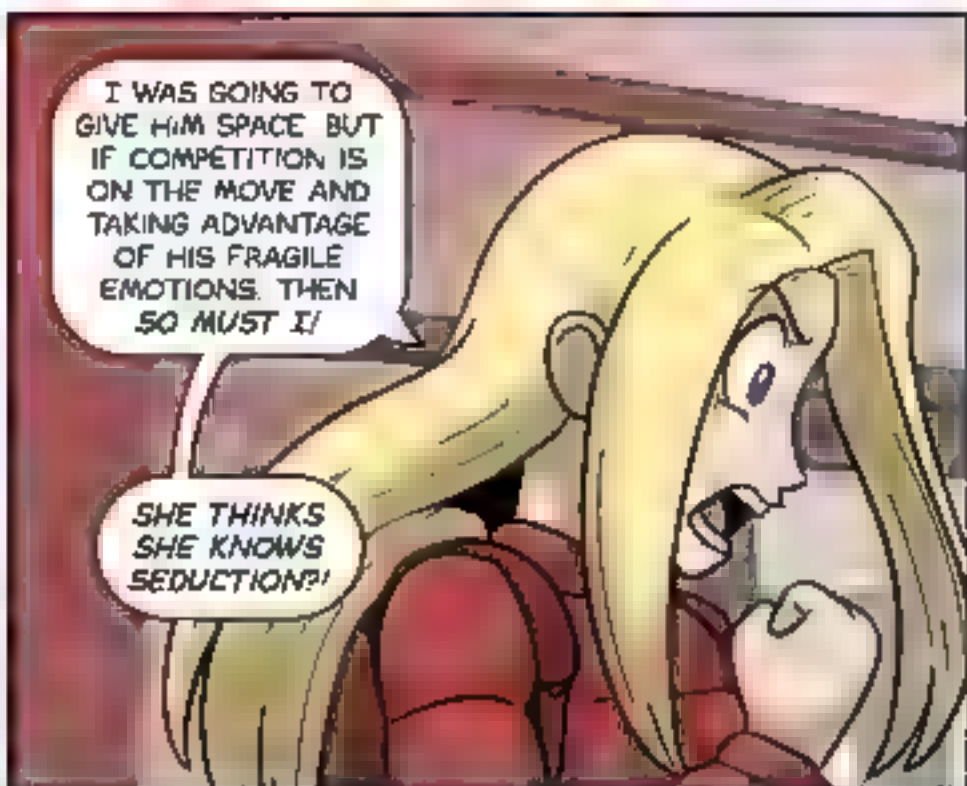
I GET IT GIRL CAUGHT
HIM ON THE REBOUND WHEN
HE WAS VULNERABLE.

THAT'S NOT
WHAT



I WAS GOING TO
GIVE HIM SPACE BUT
IF COMPETITION IS
ON THE MOVE AND
TAKING ADVANTAGE
OF HIS FRAGILE
EMOTIONS. THEN
SO MUST I!

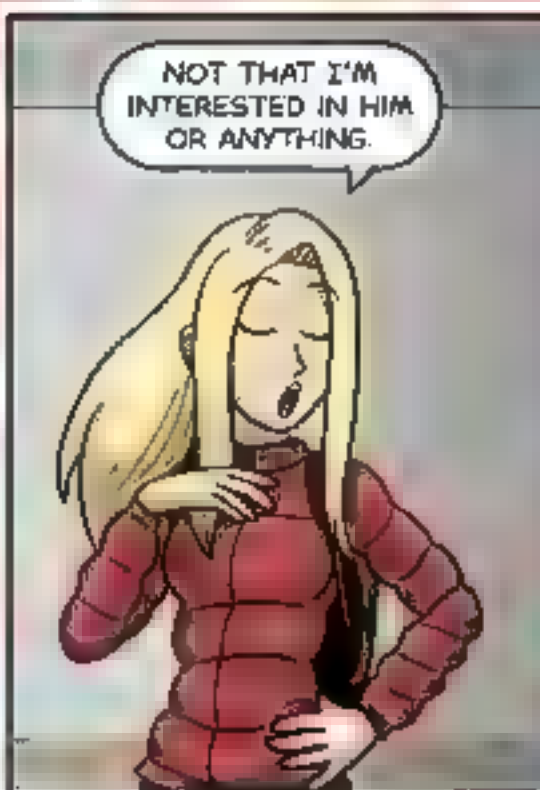
SHE THINKS
SHE KNOWS
SEDUCTION?!



SHE DOESN'T KNOW
WHAT SEDUCTION IS!

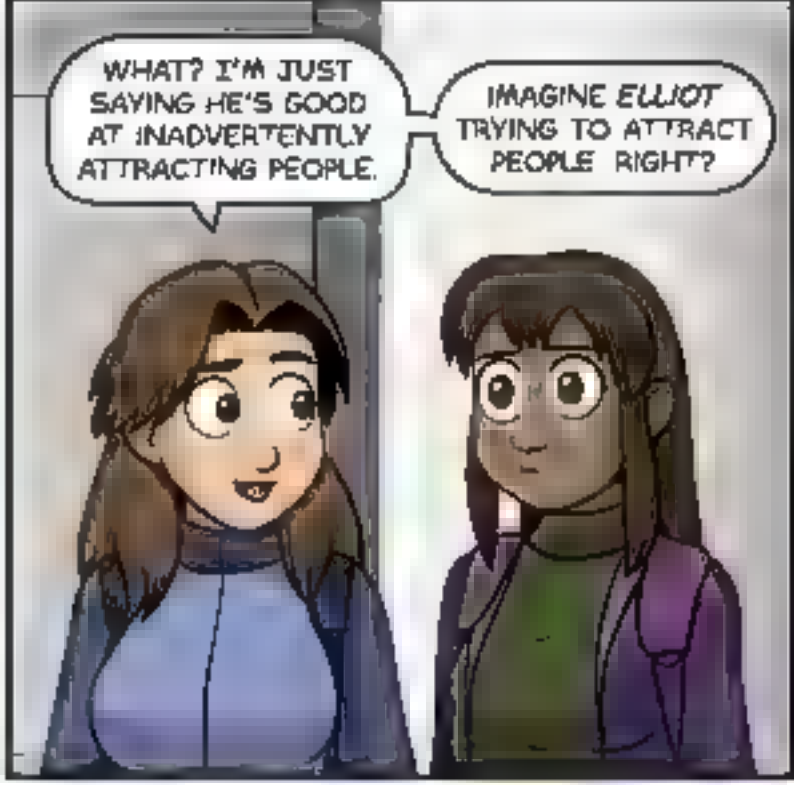


NOT THAT I'M
INTERESTED IN HIM
OR ANYTHING.



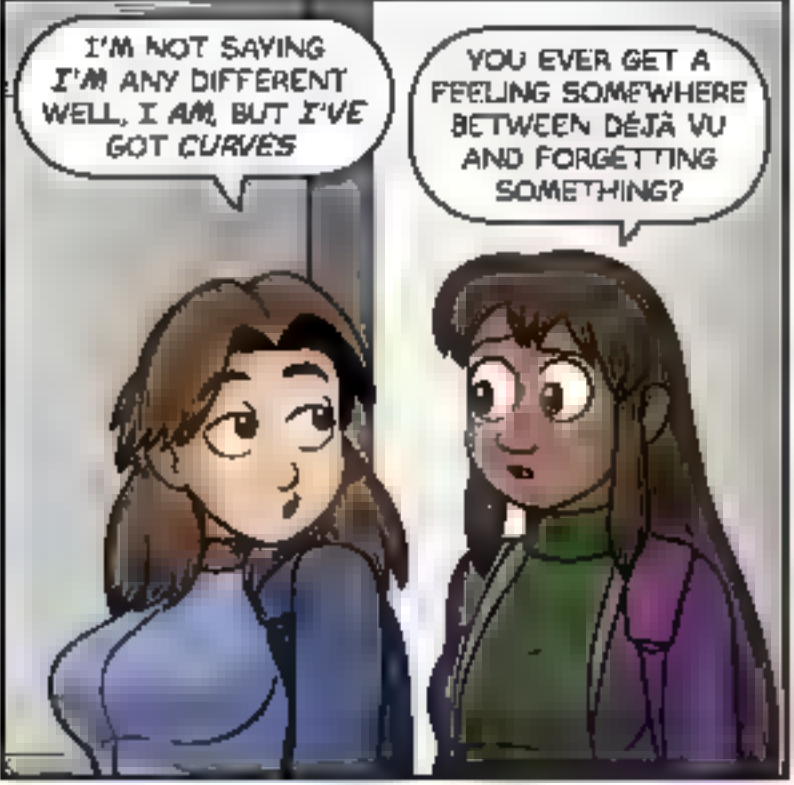
SERIOUSLY?






WHAT? I'M JUST SAYING HE'S GOOD AT INADVERTENTLY ATTRACTING PEOPLE.

IMAGINE ELLIOT TRYING TO ATTRACT PEOPLE RIGHT?



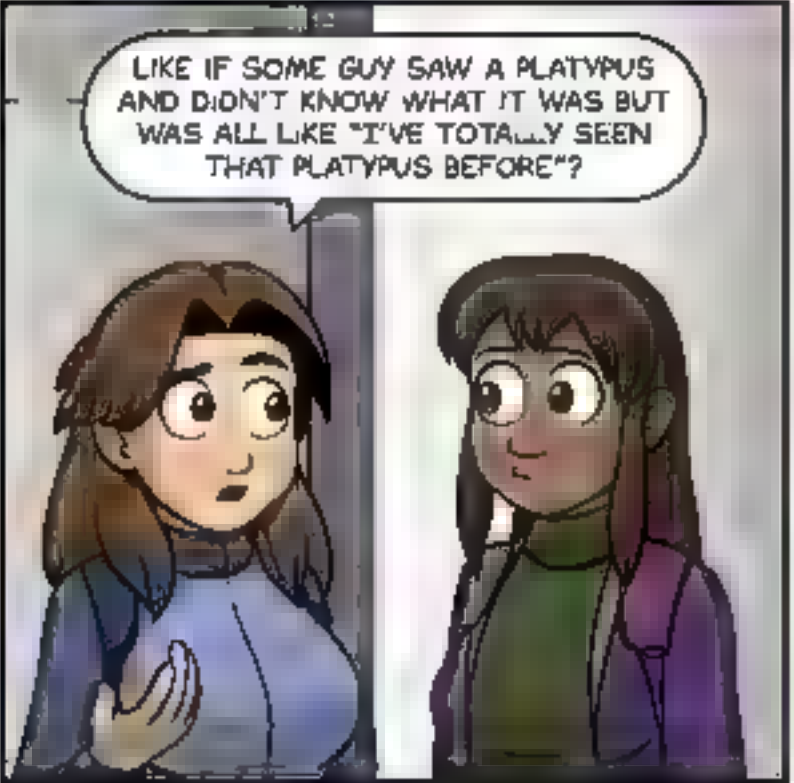
I'M NOT SAYING I'M ANY DIFFERENT WELL, I AM, BUT I'VE GOT CURVES

YOU EVER GET A FEELING SOMEWHERE BETWEEN DÉJÀ VU AND FORGETTING SOMETHING?




SAY WHAT?

LIKE YOU'RE SEEING SOMETHING YOU'VE SEEN BEFORE BUT YOU DON'T EVEN REALLY KNOW WHAT IT IS YOU SAW?



LIKE IF SOME GUY SAW A PLATYPUS AND DIDN'T KNOW WHAT IT WAS BUT WAS ALL LIKE "I'VE TOTALLY SEEN THAT PLATYPUS BEFORE"?



WAIT I GUESS HE WOULDN'T KNOW TO CALL IT A PLATYPUS..

NEVERMIND.

DID SHE DO SOMETHING WITH
HER HAIR? A NEW BACKPACK?
THERE MUST HAVE BEEN **SOME-
THING** ABOUT HER BACK THAT
GOT MY ATTENTION.

ELLEN! GRACE!

HAPPY FRIDAY!

FRIDAY
MORNING.

YOU SHOULD DRINK COFFEE
LIKE A NORMAL HUMAN.

COFFEE IS
YAWN! BAD
FOR YOU.

OVER
HERE, GIRL.

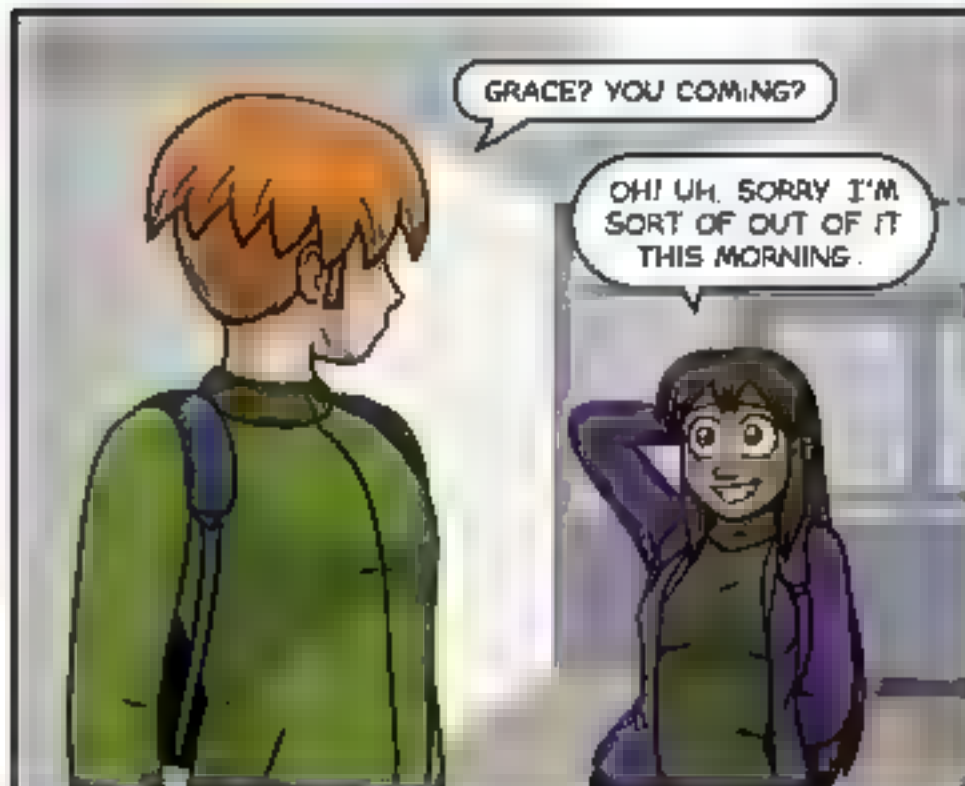
MMPH

THEY'RE
ADORABLE.

COFFEE'S
BAD FOR
YOU?

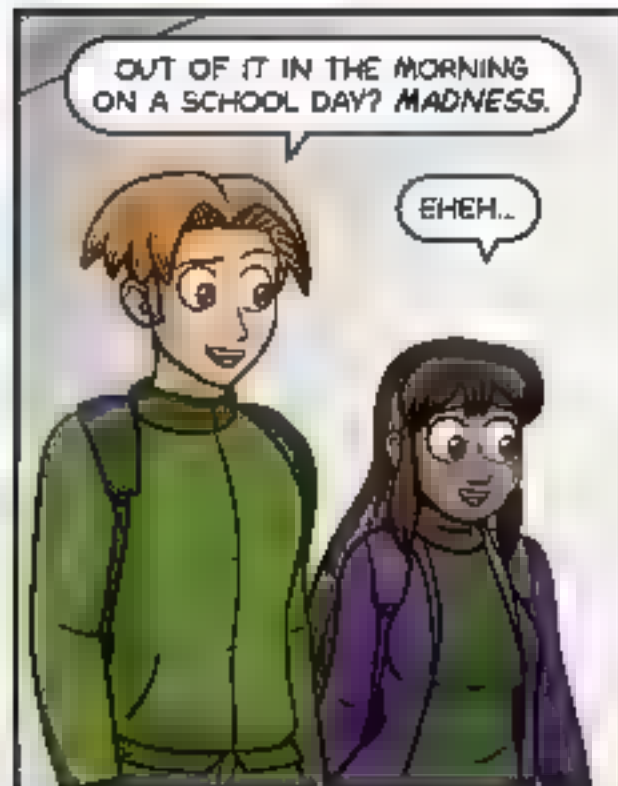
THERE'S GOOD
AND BAD STUFF
ABOUT IT YOU OF ALL
PEOPLE SHOULDN'T
HAVE TO WORRY

WHAT?



GRACE? YOU COMING?

OH! UM, SORRY I'M
SORT OF OUT OF IT
THIS MORNING.



OUT OF IT IN THE MORNING
ON A SCHOOL DAY? *MADNESS.*

EHEH...



SO, ARE TEDD AND SARAH STILL PLANNING
TO PLAY IN THE TOURNAMENT TONIGHT?

I THINK SO. JUST UM,
DON'T BE TOO SHOCKED
BY TEDD. OKAY?



WHY WOULD TEDD SHOCK ME? HE'S
NOT THAT GOOD AT THE GAME

NOT BY THAT HE.
UM... WAIT MAYBE HE
WANTS PEOPLE TO
BE SHOCKED?



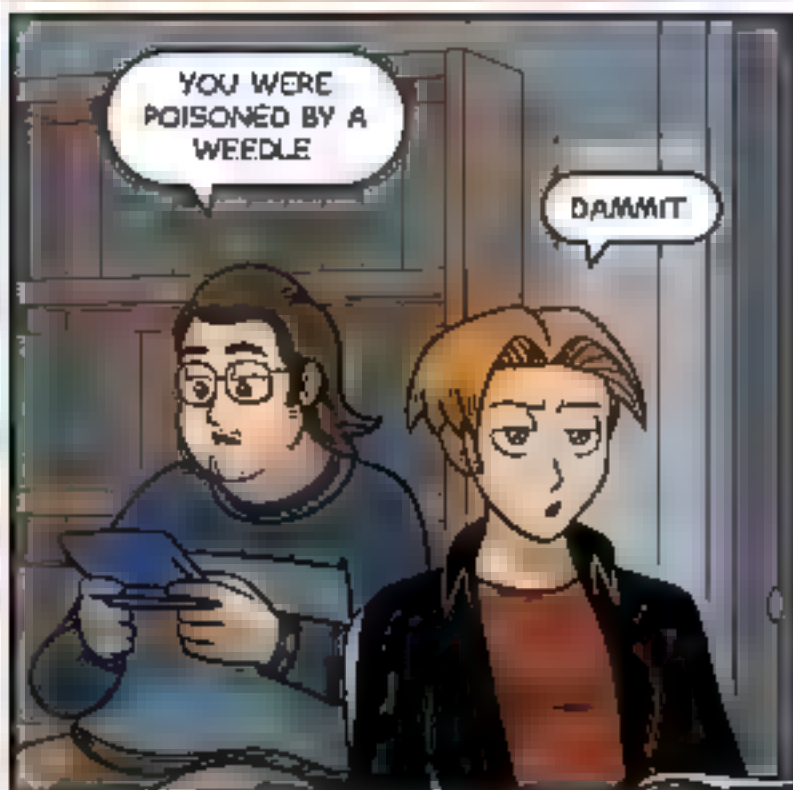
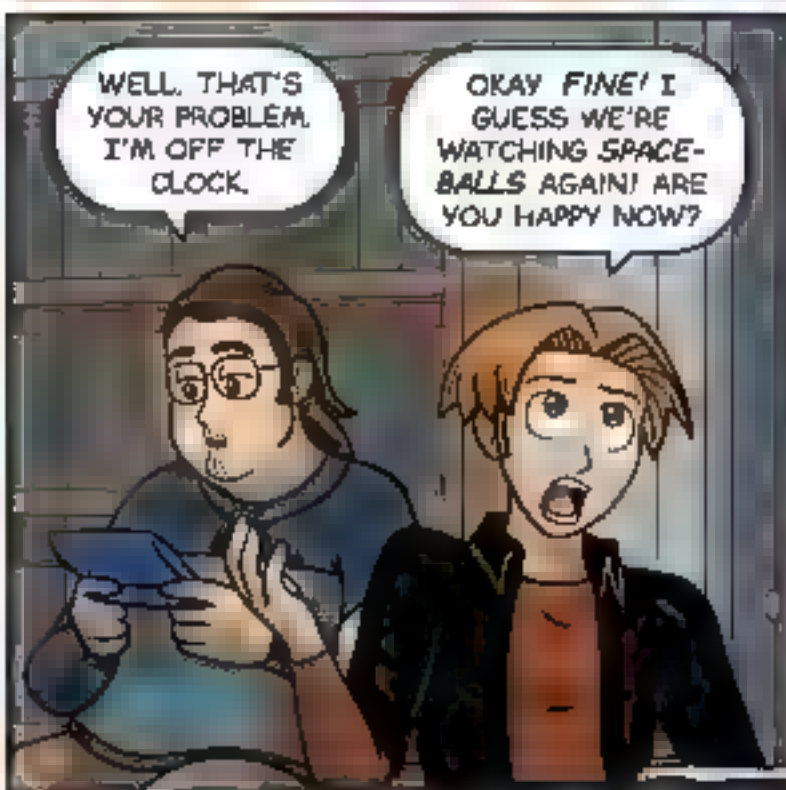
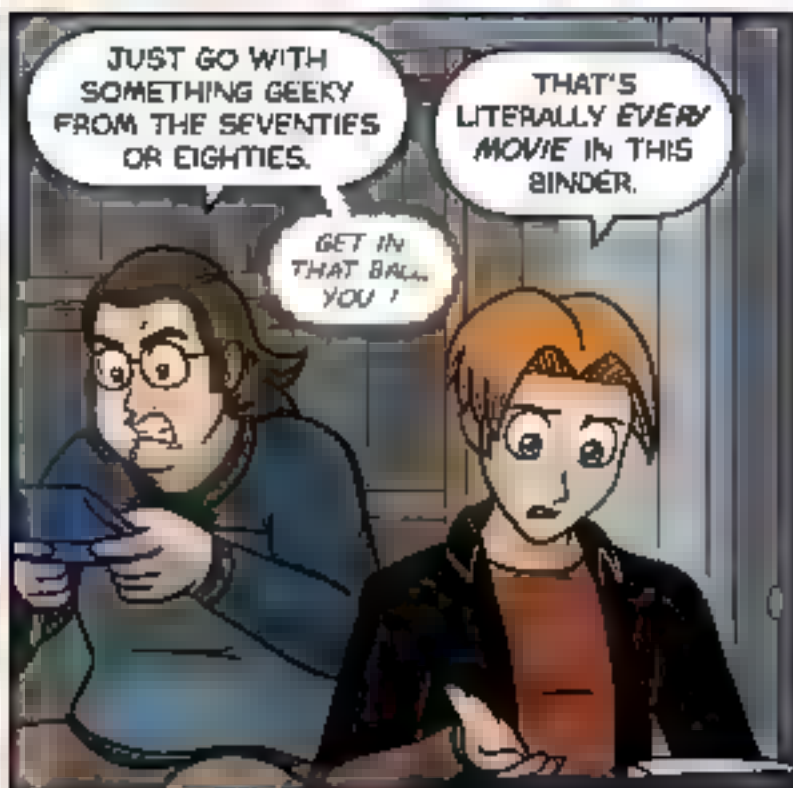
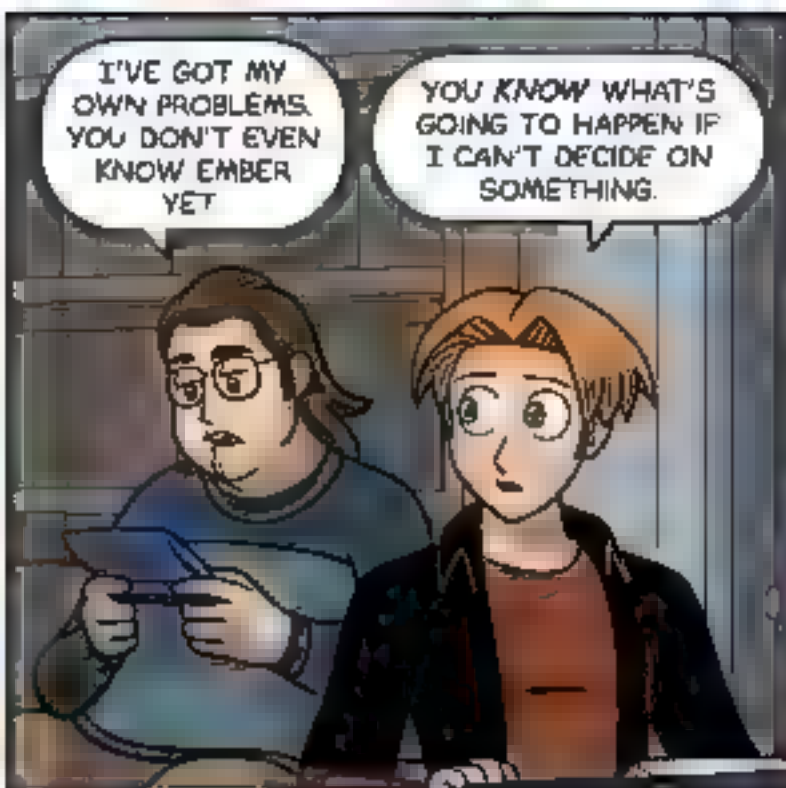
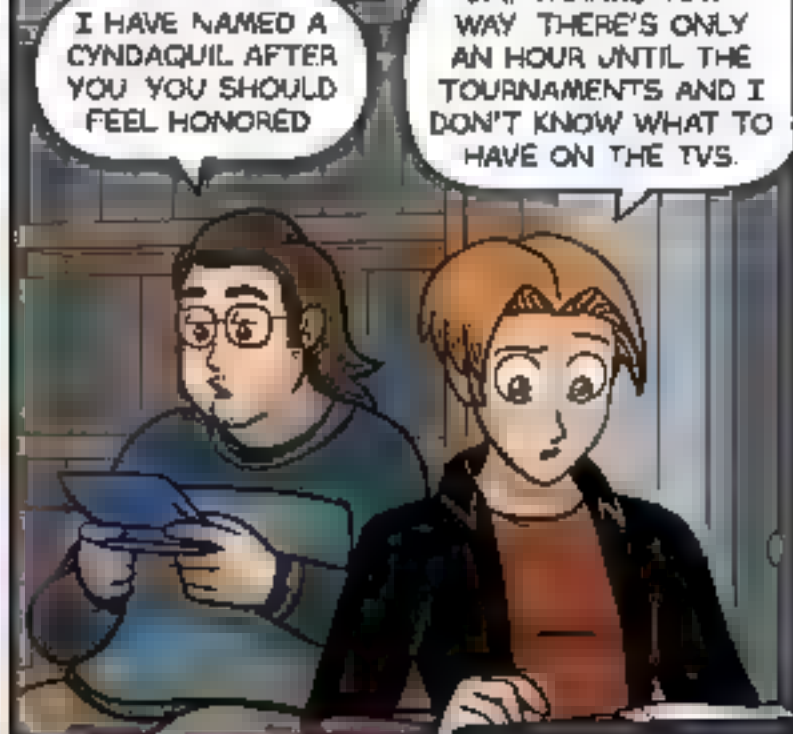
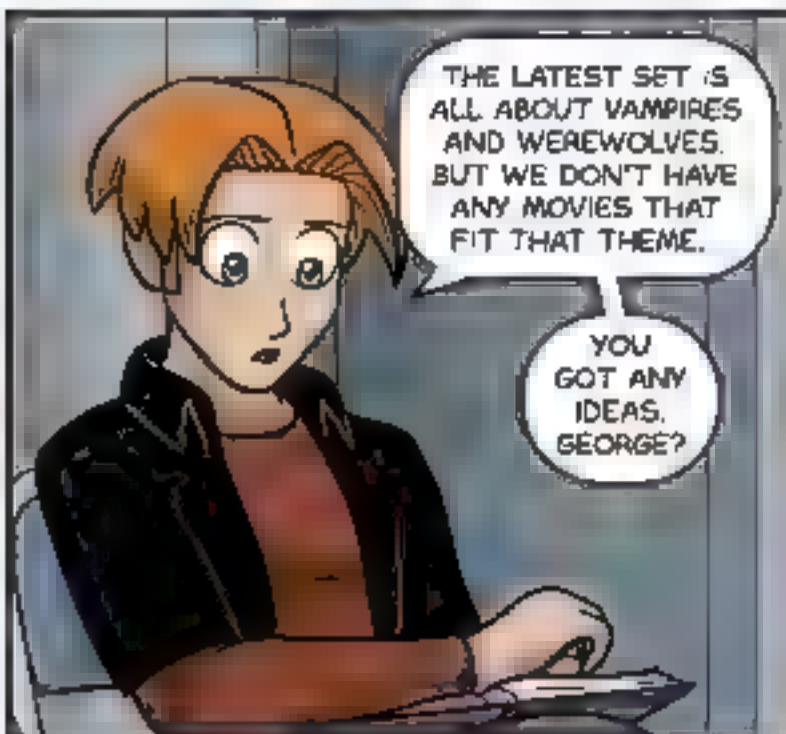
HE'S GOING
TO BE A GIRL
SN'T HE?

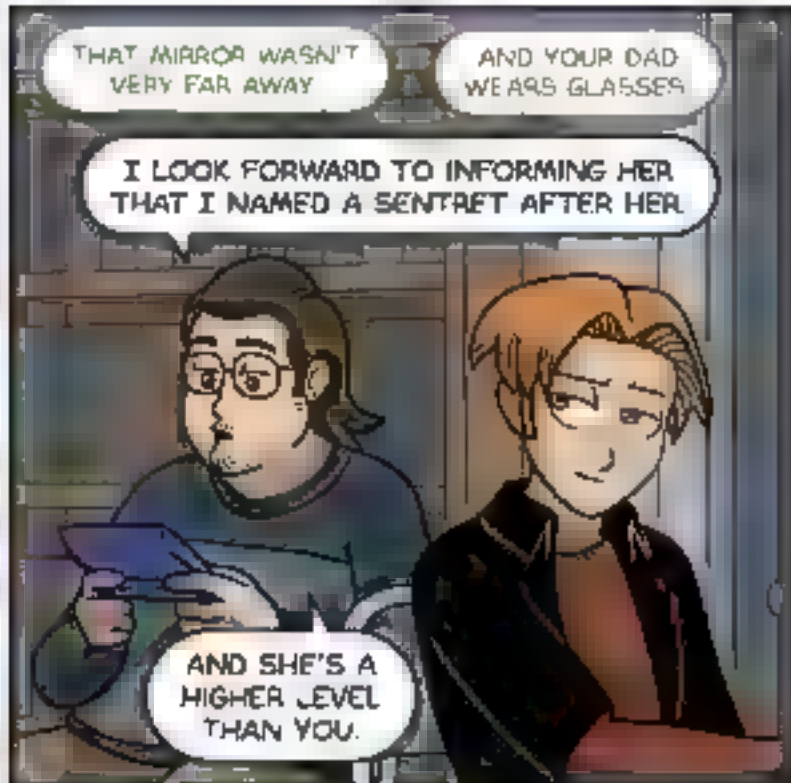
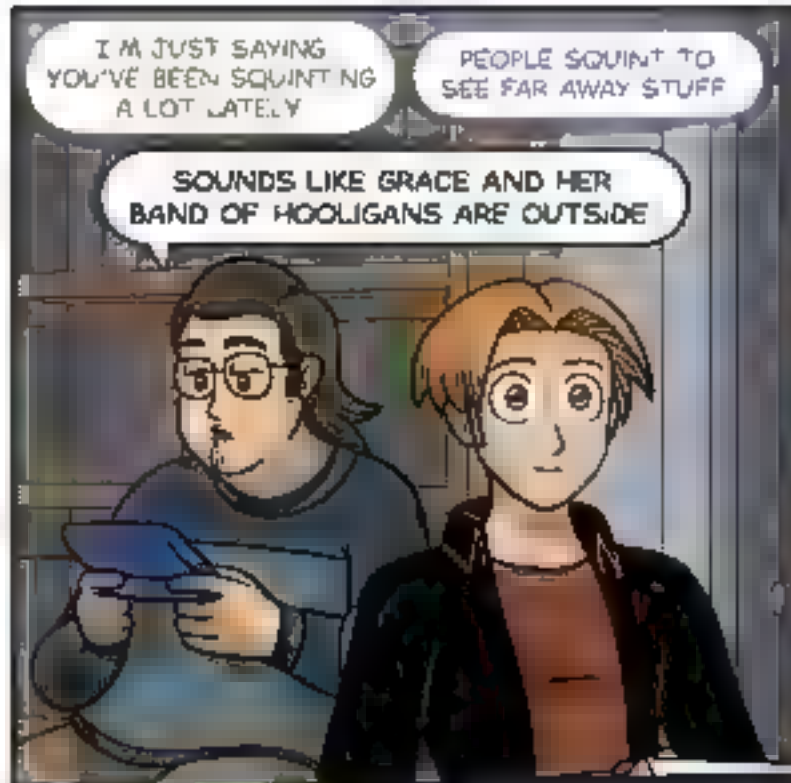
NO NO NO
NOTHING LIKE
THAT! WELL, NOT
EXACTLY LIKE
THAT

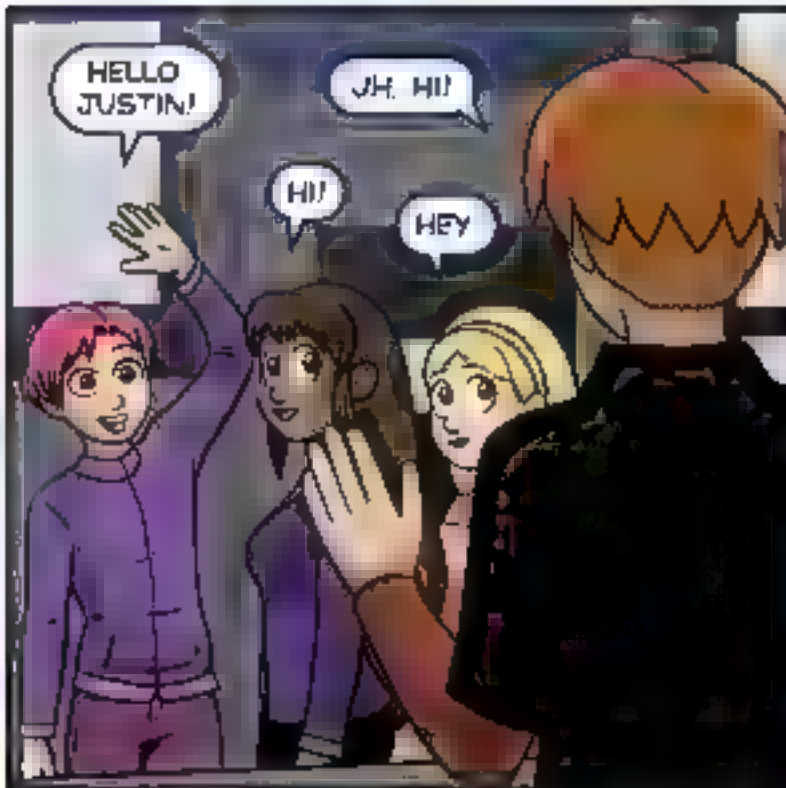


AND YOU'RE NOT TELLING
ME EXACTLY LIKE WHAT?

I PROMISED
NOT TO SAY
ANYWAY BE
JUST THE RIGHT
AMOUNT OF
SHOCKED.





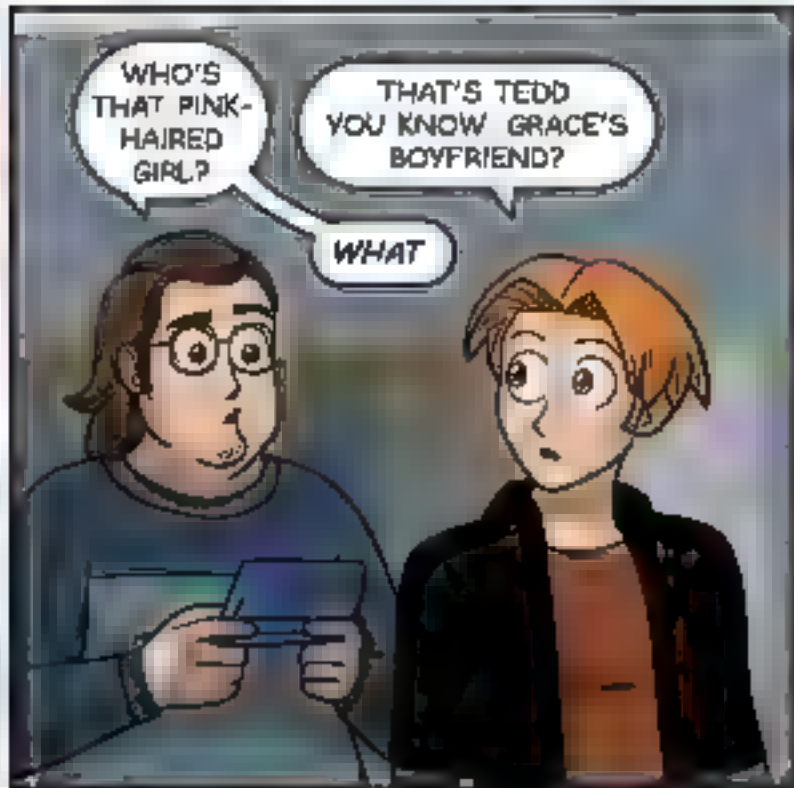


HELLO JUSTIN!

JH. HI!

HI!

HEY



WHO'S THAT PINK-HAIRED GIRL?

THAT'S TEDD YOU KNOW GRACE'S BOYFRIEND?

WHAT



SURPRISED? I DECIDED I WAS OVERDUE FOR A HAIRCUT

AND YOU DYED IT

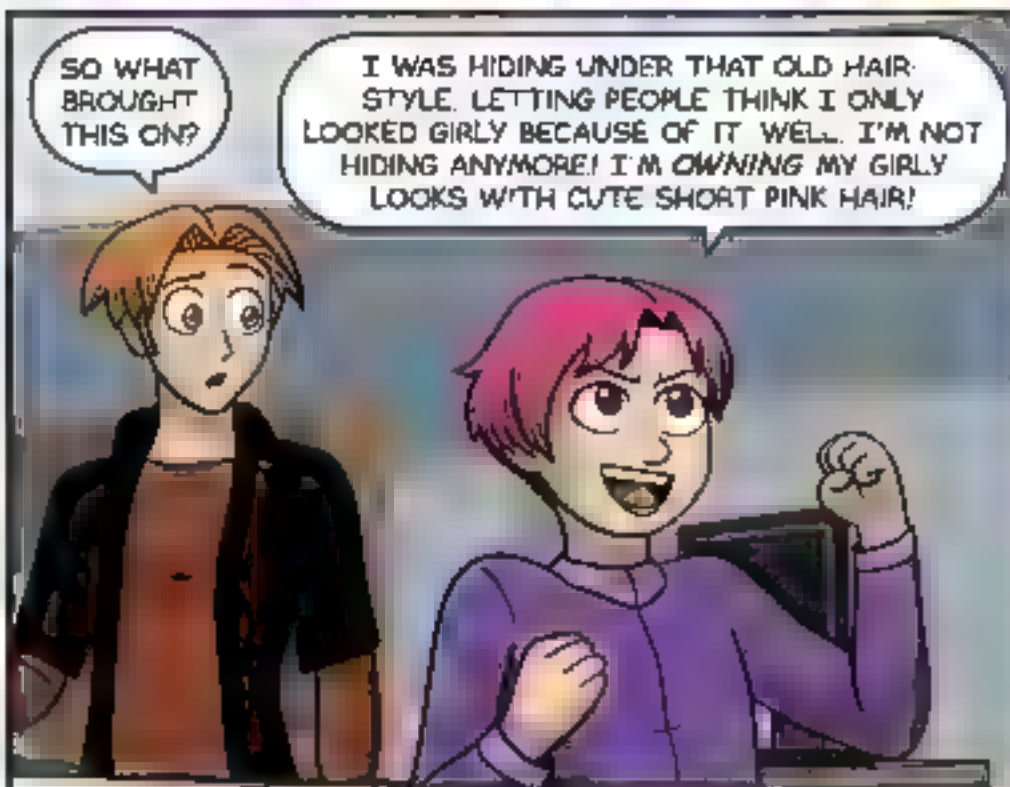


OH, I DIDN'T DYE IT I--

-ERHEM-

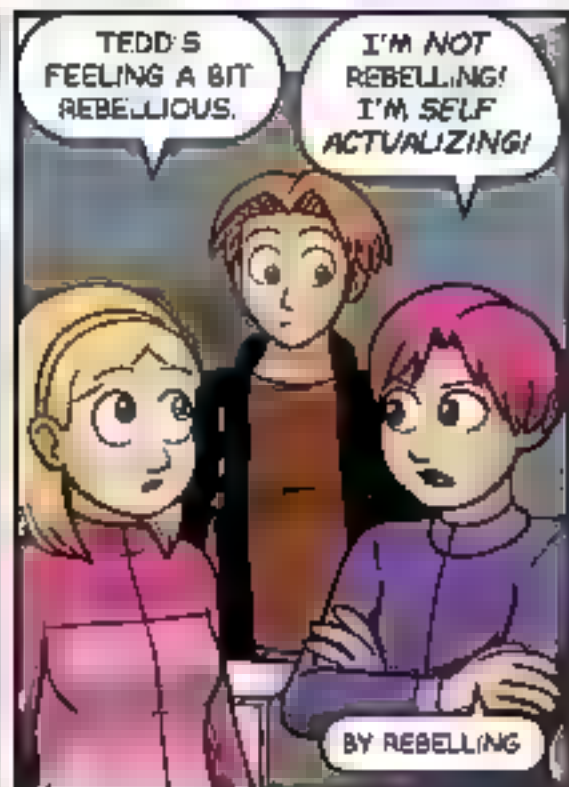


I MEAN YES I TOTALLY DYED IT HOW ELSE COULD I MAKE MY HAIR PINK WHAT SORT OF QUESTION IS THAT



SO WHAT BROUGHT THIS ON?

I WAS HIDING UNDER THAT OLD HAIR-STYLE. LETTING PEOPLE THINK I ONLY LOOKED GIRLY BECAUSE OF IT WELL. I'M NOT HIDING ANYMORE! I'M OWNING MY GIRLY LOOKS WITH CUTE SHORT PINK HAIR!



TEDD'S FEELING A BIT REBELLIOUS.

I'M NOT REBELLING! I'M SELF ACTUALIZING!

BY REBELLING

SO THE LONGER HAIR WAS ABOUT GETTING PEOPLE TO SEE YOU A CERTAIN WAY BUT NOW YOU'RE ASSERTING YOURSELF BY CUTTING IT THE WAY YOU WANT IT

DARN RIGHT!

BUT YOU ALSO MADE YOUR HAIR PINK. WHICH ALSO SEEMS LIKE IT'D BE ABOUT GETTING PEOPLE TO SEE YOU A CERTAIN WAY UNLESS MAYBE YOU JUST REALLY LIKE PINK HAIR OR SOMETHING.

UH

I'M NOT SAYING IT ISN'T SORT OF BADASS EITHER WAY SCREW ANYONE WHO GIVES YOU CRAP FOR HAVING CUTE PINK GIRLY FAIRY PRINCESS PONY HAIR.

I'M JUST SAYING YOU MIGHT BE OKAY WITH SIMPLE CUTE GIRLY FAIRY HAIR.

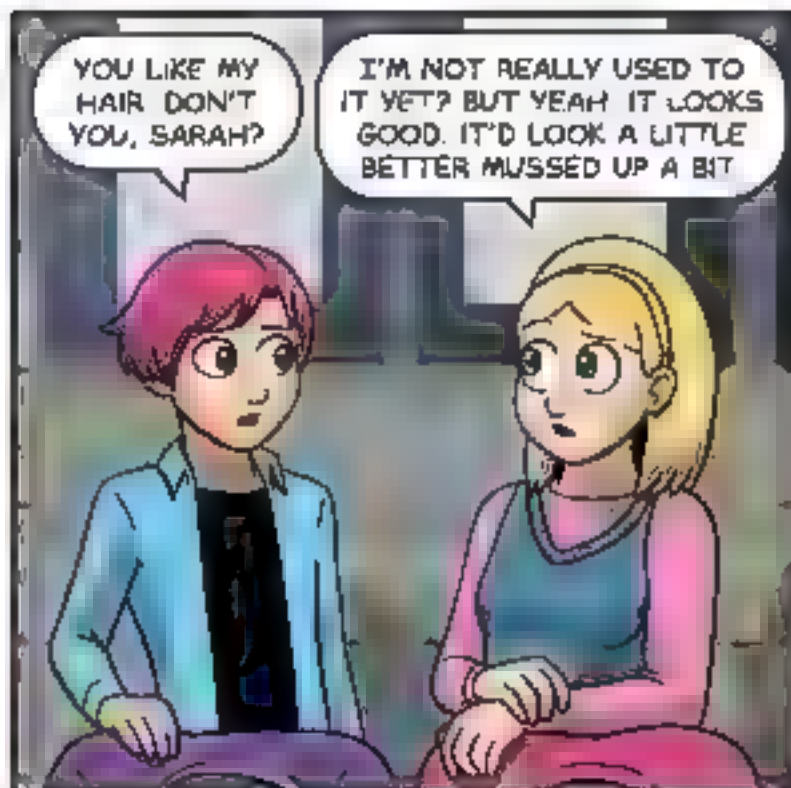
I'M NATURALLY FEMININE LOOKING THE PINK JUST COMPLIMENTS IT

NOTED. AND YOU SHOULD NOTE THAT I'LL BE NAMING A JIGGLYPUFF AFTER YOU

OH!
OH OH
OH.

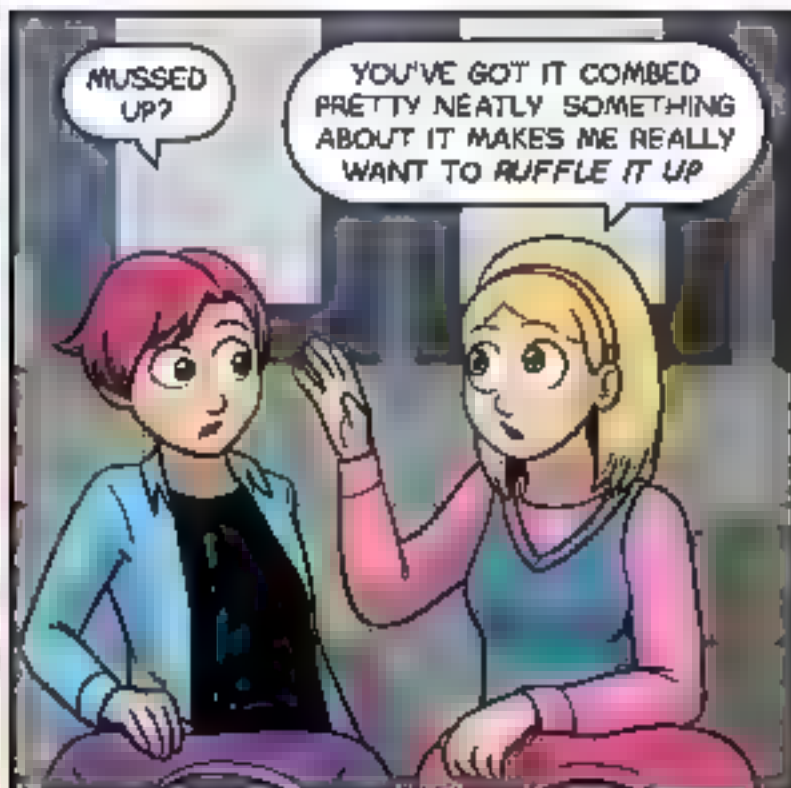
YEAH, I NAMED THIS SQUIRRELY RACCOON THING AFTER YOU.

SQUEE!



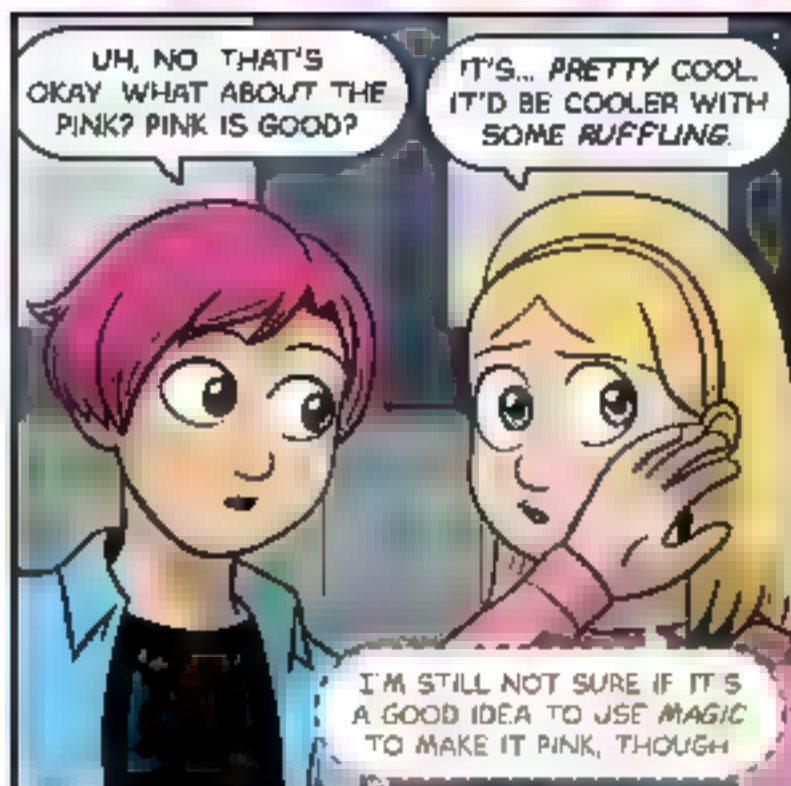
YOU LIKE MY HAIR DON'T YOU, SARAH?

I'M NOT REALLY USED TO IT YET? BUT YEAH IT LOOKS GOOD. IT'D LOOK A LITTLE BETTER MUSSSED UP A BIT



MUSSSED UP?

YOU'VE GOT IT COMBED PRETTY NEATLY SOMETHING ABOUT IT MAKES ME REALLY WANT TO RUFFLE IT UP



UH, NO THAT'S OKAY WHAT ABOUT THE PINK? PINK IS GOOD?

IT'S... PRETTY COOL. IT'D BE COOLER WITH SOME RUFFLING.

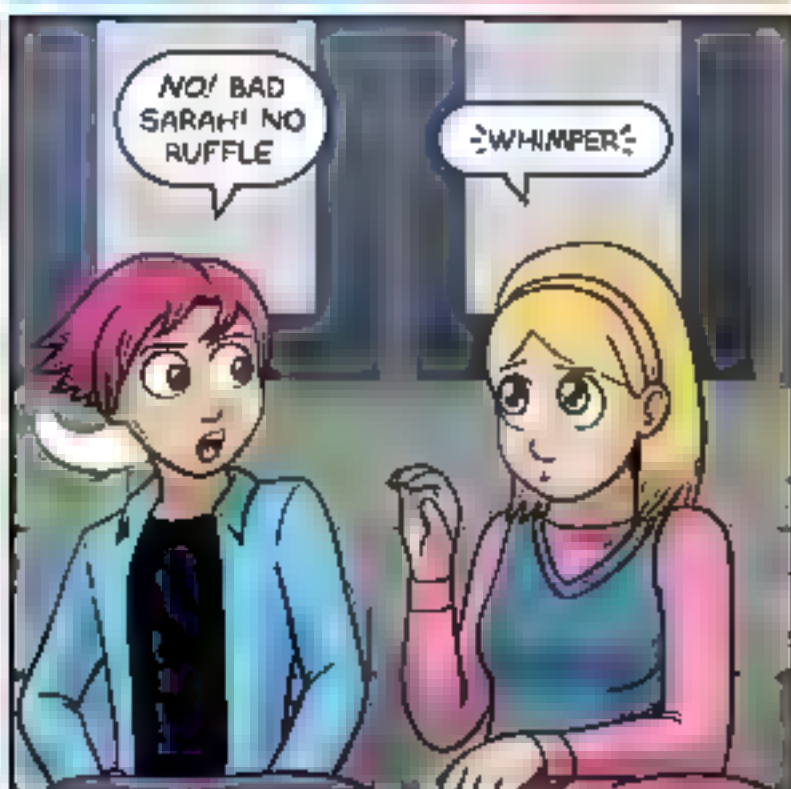
I'M STILL NOT SURE IF IT'S A GOOD IDEA TO USE MAGIC TO MAKE IT PINK, THOUGH



BETTER THAT THAN PUTTING A BUNCH OF CHEMICALS IN MY HAIR. AND THIS WAY IT'S ALMOST LIKE I'M USING MAGIC IN FRONT OF EVERYONE IN SPITE OF ANYTHING MY "HIDE MAGIC FROM EVERYONE" DAD SAYS

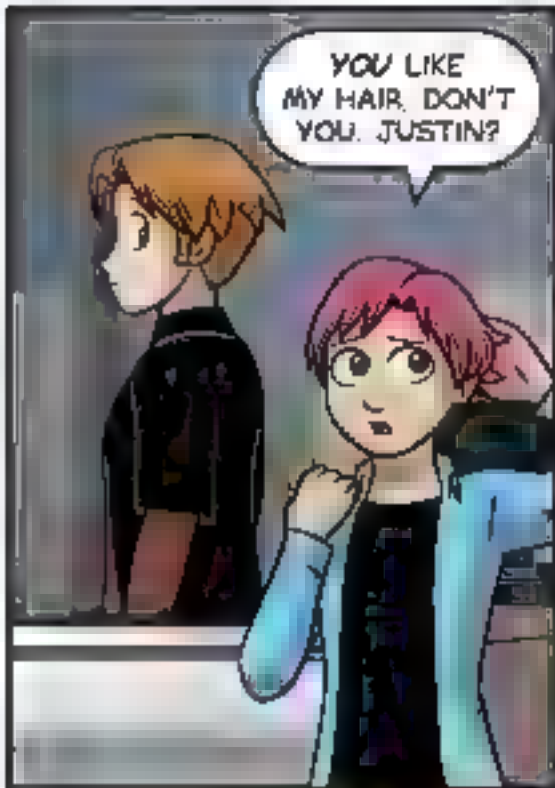


YEAH, PINK WAS A GOOD CALL. IT'S ALL ABOUT ME BEING MYSELF IN SPITE OF ALL THE JERKS WHO WILL HAVE A PROBLEM WITH IT



NO! BAD SARAH! NO RUFFLE

~WHIMPER~

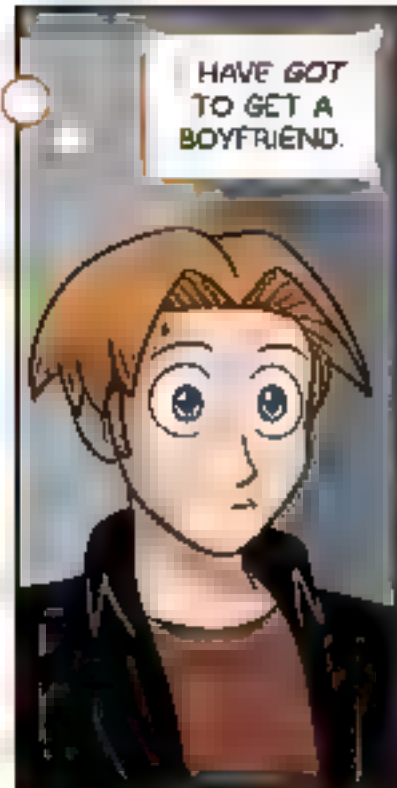


YOU LIKE MY HAIR, DON'T YOU, JUSTIN?

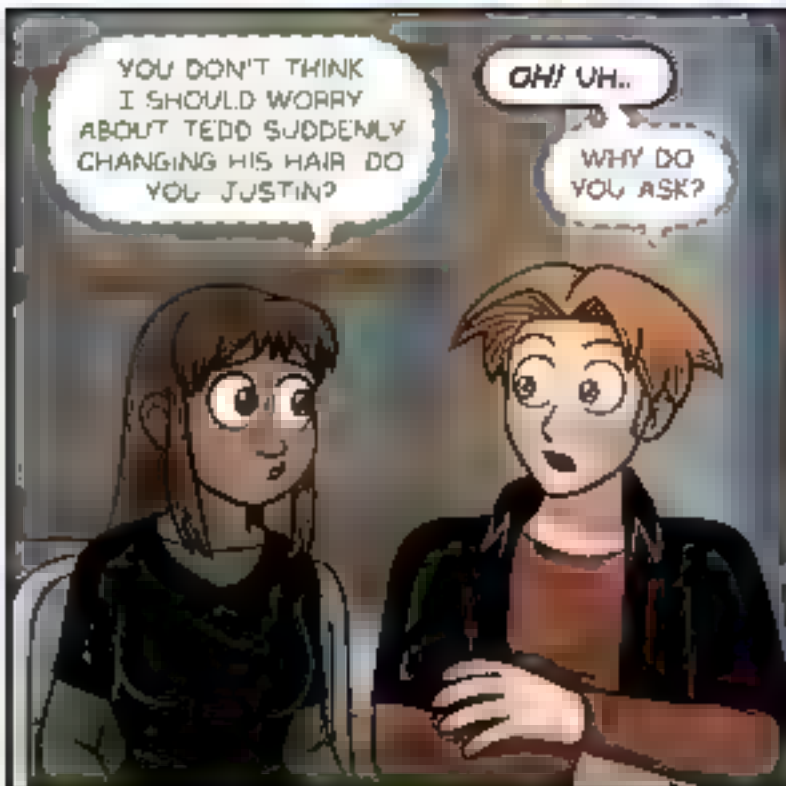


IT'S HARD TO SAY WITH YOUR CLOTHES DISTRACTING FROM IT

WELL THAT'S EASILY FIXED.



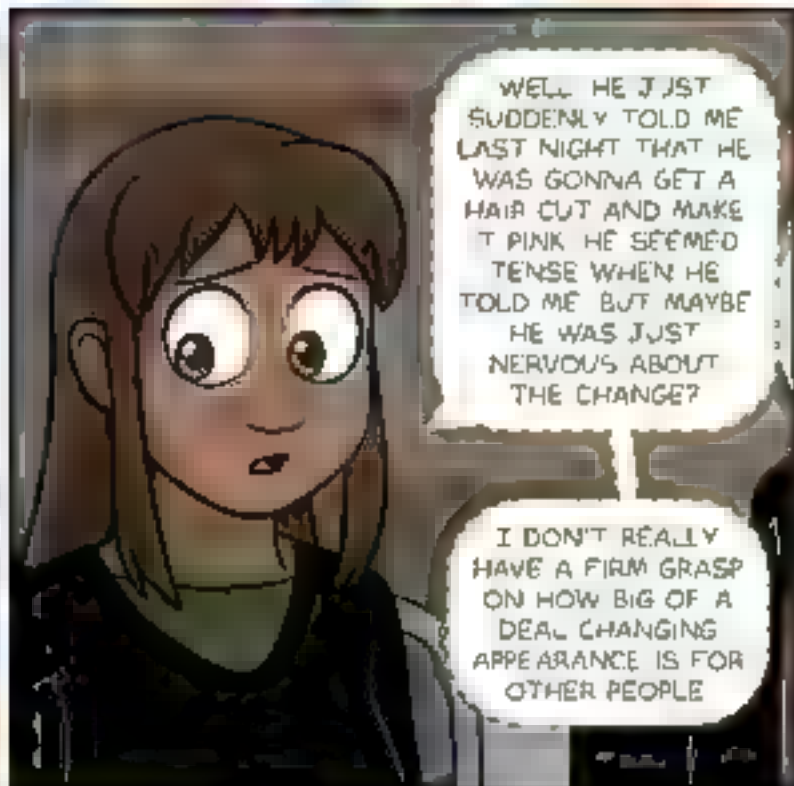
HAVE GOT TO GET A BOYFRIEND.



YOU DON'T THINK I SHOULD WORRY ABOUT TEDD SUDDENLY CHANGING HIS HAIR DO YOU JUSTIN?

OH! UH..

WHY DO YOU ASK?



WELL HE JUST SUDDENLY TOLD ME LAST NIGHT THAT HE WAS GONNA GET A HAIR CUT AND MAKE IT PINK HE SEEMED TENSE WHEN HE TOLD ME BUT MAYBE HE WAS JUST NERVOUS ABOUT THE CHANGE?

I DON'T REALLY HAVE A FIRM GRASP ON HOW BIG OF A DEAL CHANGING APPEARANCE IS FOR OTHER PEOPLE



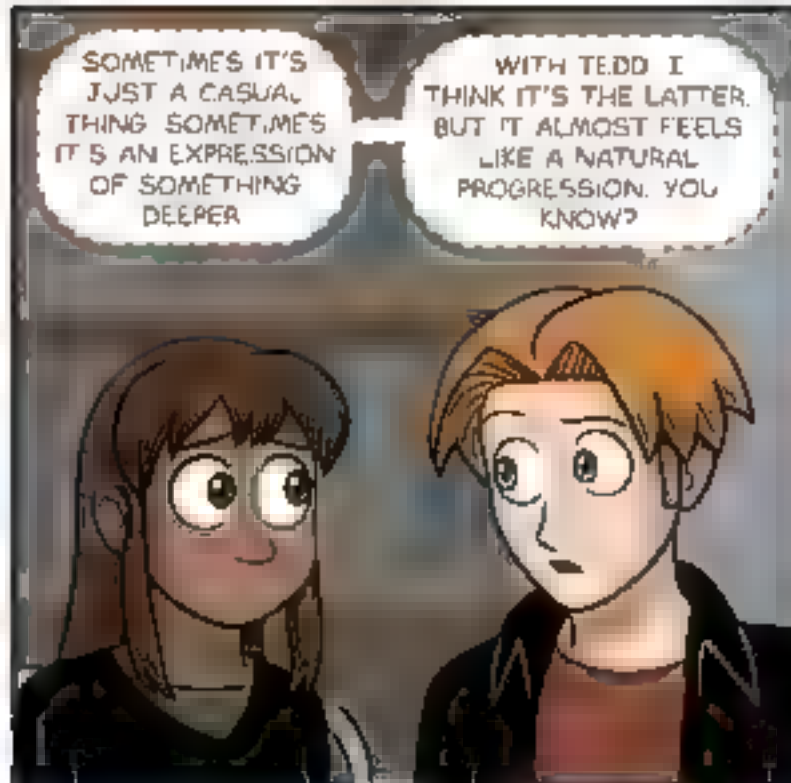
TODAY FEELS LIKE A "HIPPIE" DAY



ANYONE WHO NOTICES WILL JUST ASSUME I'M WEARING NEW SHOES.



THIS'LL MESS WITH SOME HEADS AT THE COMIC SHOP



SOMETIMES IT'S JUST A CASUAL THING. SOMETIMES IT'S AN EXPRESSION OF SOMETHING DEEPER.

WITH TEDD I THINK IT'S THE LATTER. BUT IT ALMOST FEELS LIKE A NATURAL PROGRESSION. YOU KNOW?



YEAH ALMOST I FIGURED HE MIGHT CUT HIS HAIR EVENTUALLY AFTER HE STOPPED WEARING HIS GLASSES IN PUBLIC BUT THE PINK?



DUDE'S JUST HIGHLIGHTING THE CHANGE

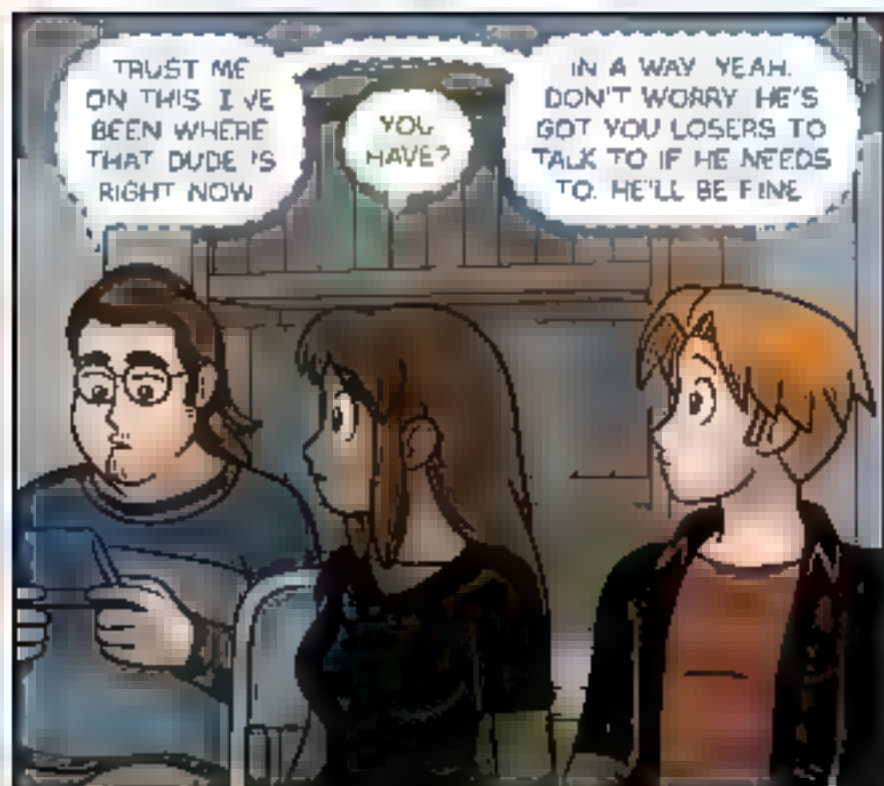
EEP!

MAKING SURE EVERYBODY NOTICES



IF THERE'S MORE TO IT THAN THAT HE'LL OPEN UP WHEN HE'S READY YOU DON'T WANT TO PUSH IT JUST NOW

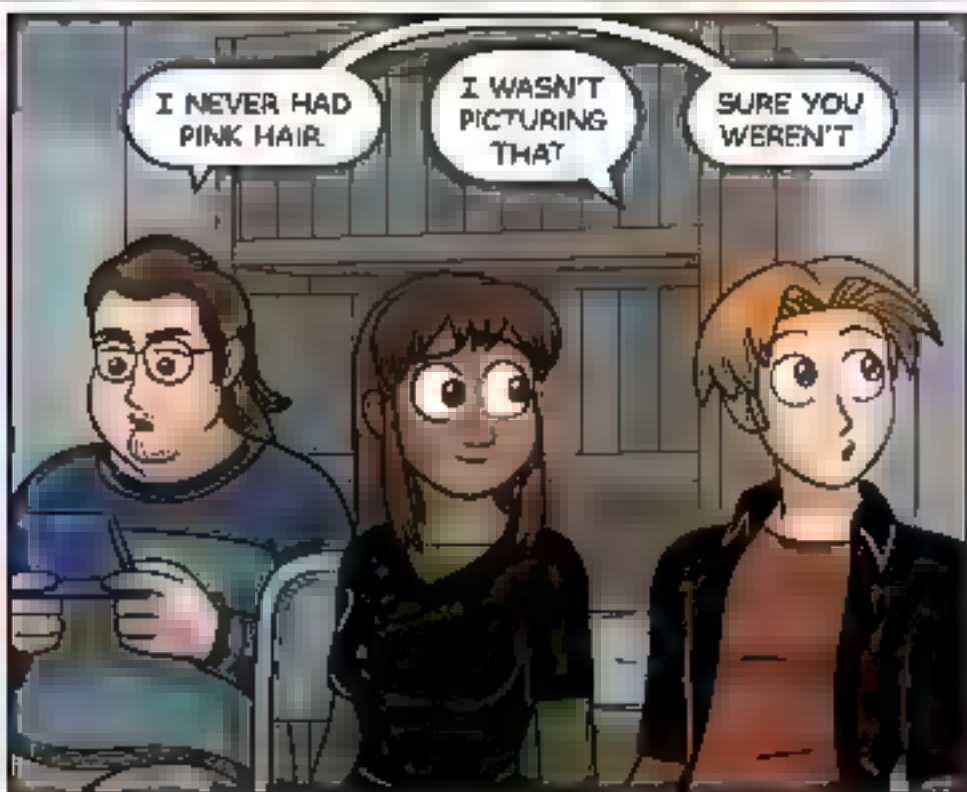
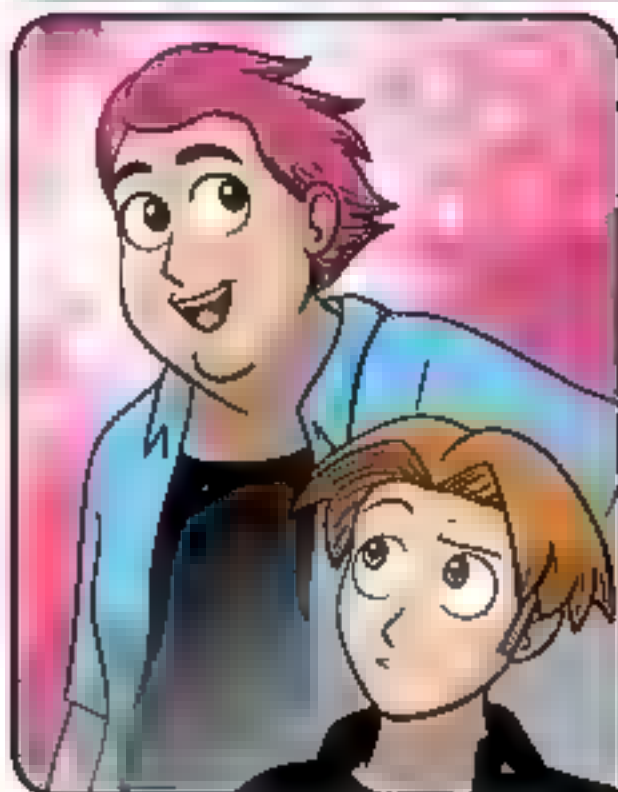
ARE YOU SURE?



TRUST ME ON THIS I'VE BEEN WHERE THAT DUDE IS RIGHT NOW

YOU HAVE?

IN A WAY YEAH. DON'T WORRY HE'S GOT YOU LOSERS TO TALK TO IF HE NEEDS TO. HE'LL BE FINE



I NEVER HAD PINK HAIR

I WASN'T PICTURING THAT

SURE YOU WEREN'T

I'M PRETTY SURE THERE'S ONLY ONE MECHANIC THAT'S NEW TO US IN THE SET WE'LL BE MAKING DECKS FROM TONIGHT AND THAT'S THE "MORPHING" MECHANIC.

WELL, THERE'S SOME IRONY FOR YOU

INDEED. ANYWAY IT BASICALLY MEANS SOME OF THE CARDS WE'LL GET IN THE BOOSTER PACKS MIGHT LOOK WEAK...

YAWN

...BUT COULD BECOME BIG, POWERFUL WERE-WOLVES UNDER THE RIGHT CONDITIONS.

AND JUST AS EASILY BE FORCED TO CHANGE BACK LATER, BUT STILL.

POOF

THEIR ENERGY EFFICIENCY SHOULD MAKE THEM A GOOD CHOICE IN THIS LIMITED ENVIRONMENT

THEY SOUND FUN. ARE THERE SEXY VAMPIRES, TOO?

WELL, THERE ARE VAMPIRES. I DON'T KNOW IF THEY'RE SEXY NOT THAT THAT WOULD AFFECT DECK BUILDING.

MAYBE NOT YOUR DECK.

I'D PREFER A WEREWOLF THEMED DECK WITH VAMPIRES. THERE'S LIKE ONE OR TWO GOOD CONFLICTED VAMPIRES, AND THE REST ARE JUST JERKS.

YOU SHOULD PUT ONE VAMPIRE IN YOUR DECK THE HEROIC GOOD VAMPIRE WHO ONLY DRINKS BLOOD FROM VOLUNTEERS!

THAT'S MORE OF A PROTAGONIST ROLE IT WOULD SORTA MAKE IT ABOUT HIM, YOU KNOW? I WANNA FOCUS ON A WEREWOLF THEME

VOLUNTEERS AND JERKS.

YOU MIGHT NOT GET ENOUGH WERE-WOLVES, THOUGH.

WELL, WHAT I CONSIDER THE BEST BEST CASE SCENARIO WOULD BE A DECK WHERE THE WEREWOLVES HAVE BEFRIENDED THE PEGASUS UNICORNS!



OR, YOU KNOW YOU COULD BUILD A DECK THAT MIGHT WIN A GAME!

ACTUALLY SOME LOW COST FLIERS WITH WERE-WOLVES MIGHT JUST--

BAH!

HEY I'M GOING TO MAKE THE BEST DECK I CAN. BUT THIS GAME IS ALL ABOUT COMING UP WITH FUN THEME DECKS!

NO IT ISN'T

MAN.
THAT DUMB
BLONDE

I KNOW
RIGHT? CAN'T
EVEN PLAY
PROPERLY



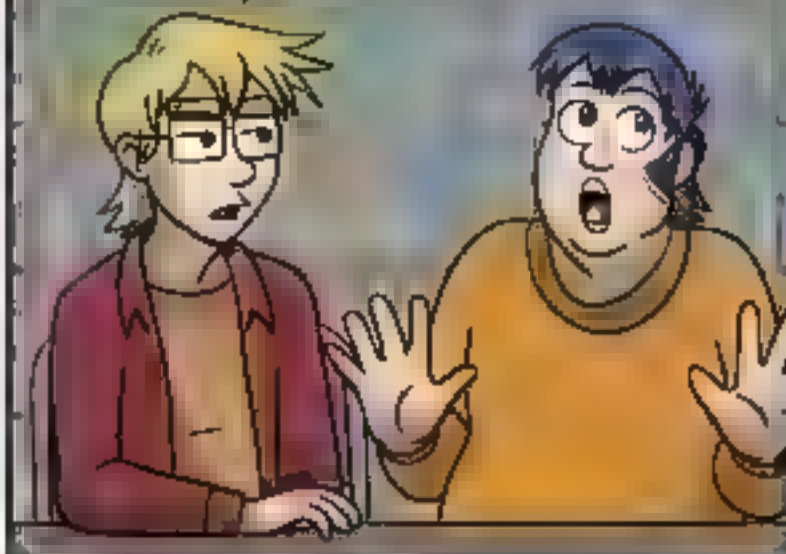
I BET SHE LIKES
VAMPIRE AND WERE-
WOLF ROMANCE CRAP
AND THINKS THAT
MAKES HER A GEEK

GIRLS LIKE THAT
PRETEND TO BE INTO
GEEKY STUFF BECAUSE SHE
ASSUMES REAL GEEKS LIKE
US WILL WORSHIP HER.



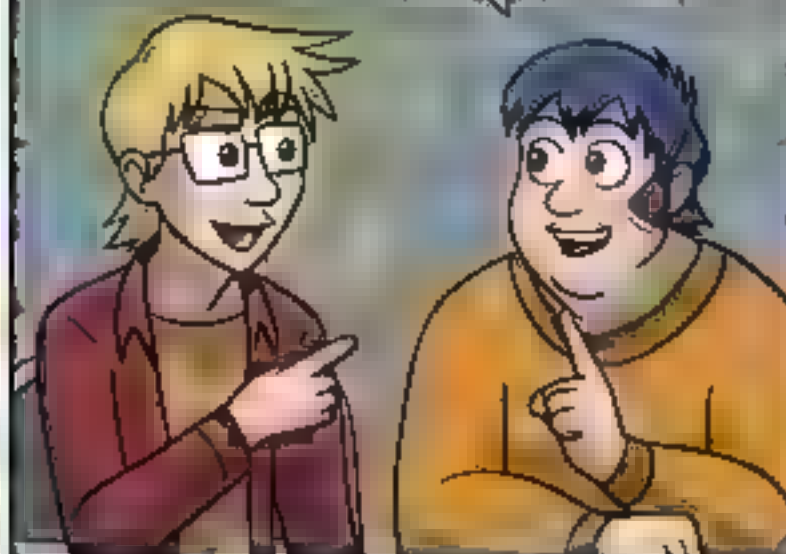
SHE JUST
WANTS TO BE
THE CENTER OF
ATTENTION.

MAKE EVERYTHING
ABOUT HER ME ME
ME! PATHETIC.



NOW THAT
PINK-HAIRED
CHICK, SHE'S
GOT CRED

SHE WAS TALKING
ABOUT CARD DRAW PROB-
ABILITY WITH JUSTIN.
SHE'S FOR REAL.



I WONDER
IF SHE'S
SINGLE?

I ALSO
WONDER
THIS.



DO YOU NOW?

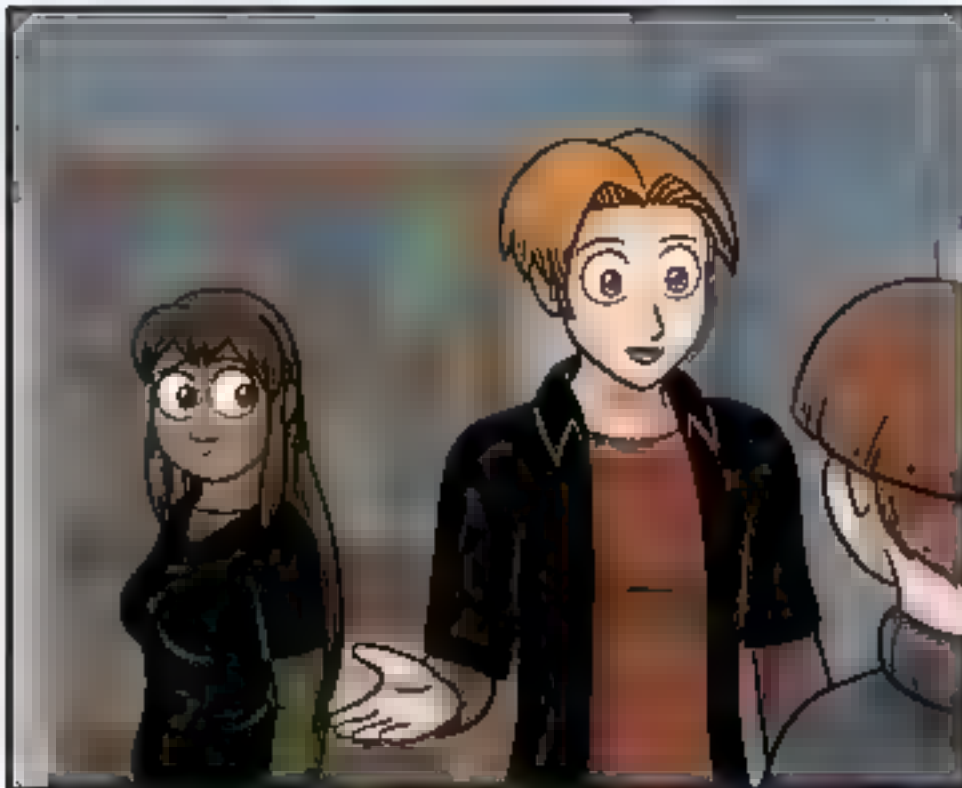
I DO.

HMM.

YES.

I
SEE





WHAT IS IT ABOUT RHODA AND JUSTIN'S BACKS? DO I HAVE A THING FOR BACKS NOW? DO I JUST LIKE SHOULDER BLADES?



..NO. SHOULDER BLADES ARE WEIRD.



I'VE JUST GOTTA FIGURE OUT HOW TO DESCRIBE THIS FEELING. THEN I CAN JUST TALK TO THEM AND MAYBE FIGURE IT OUT

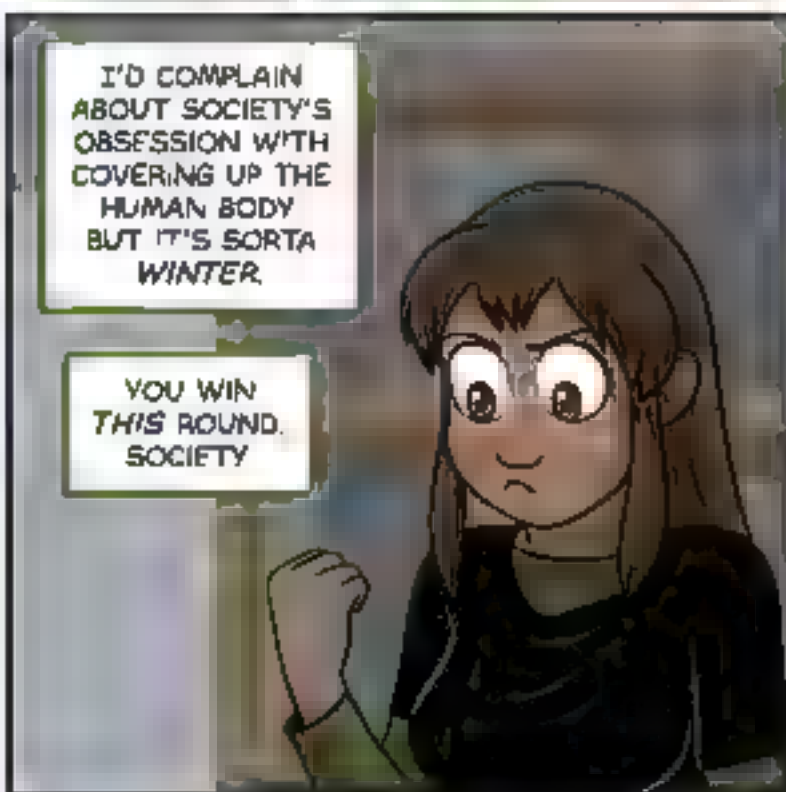


ALTHOUGH.. MAYBE SEEING THEM SHIRTLESS WOULD DO IT? THAT'S PROBABLY NOT COOL TO ASK, THOUGH, AND IT'S PROBABLY MAYBE WRONG TO ASK TEDD TO RE-ENABLE THE "SEE THROUGH CLOTHING" OPTION ON HIS GLASSES..



I'D COMPLAIN ABOUT SOCIETY'S OBSESSION WITH COVERING UP THE HUMAN BODY BUT IT'S SORTA WINTER.

YOU WIN THIS ROUND. SOCIETY

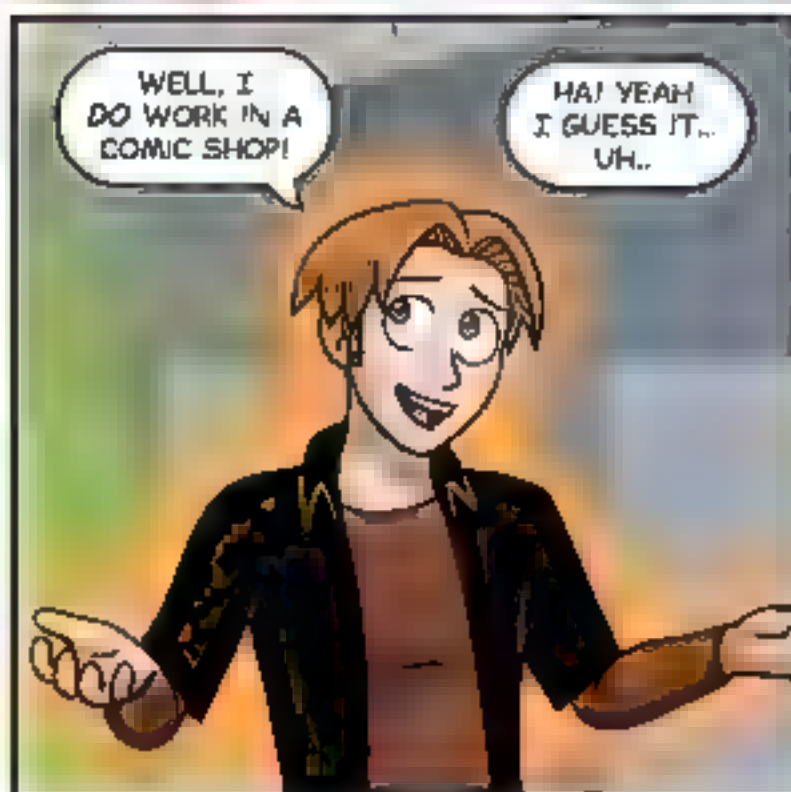
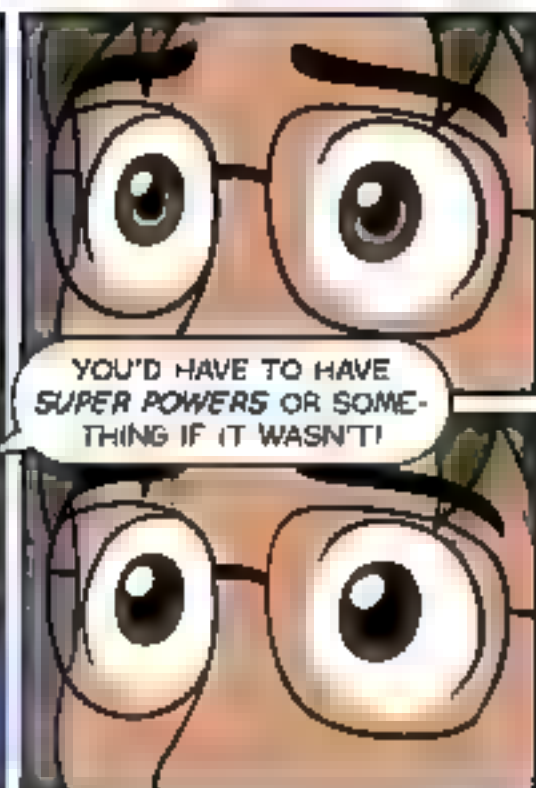
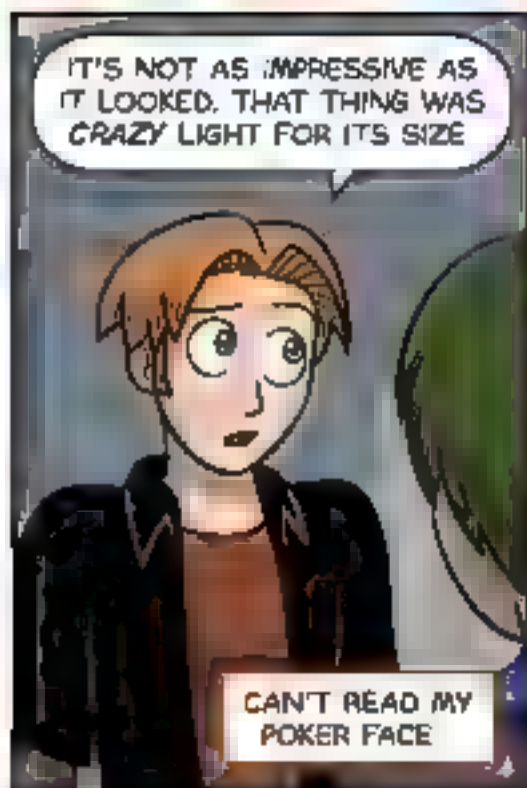
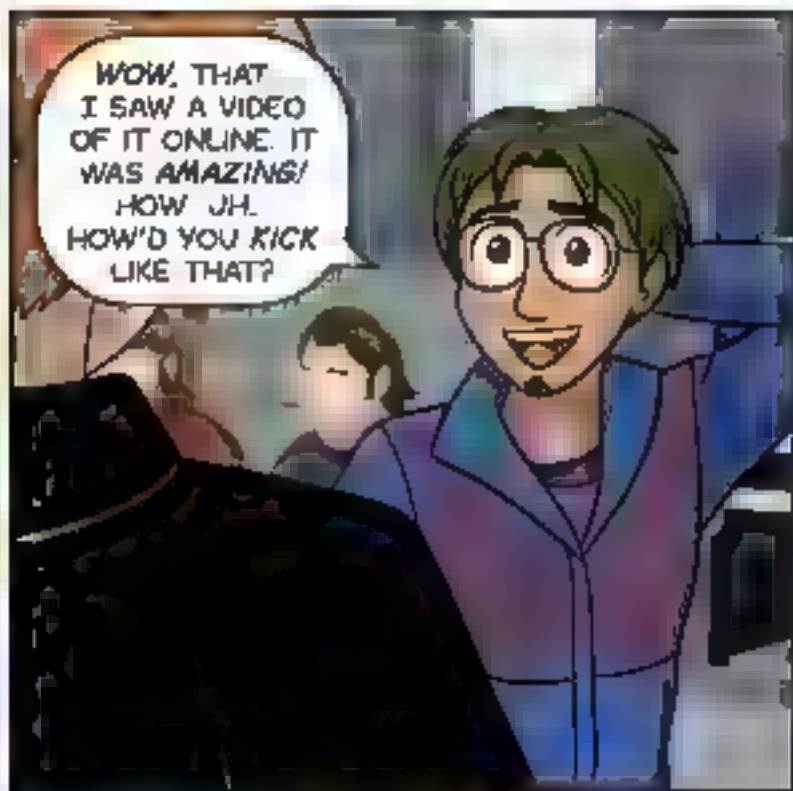


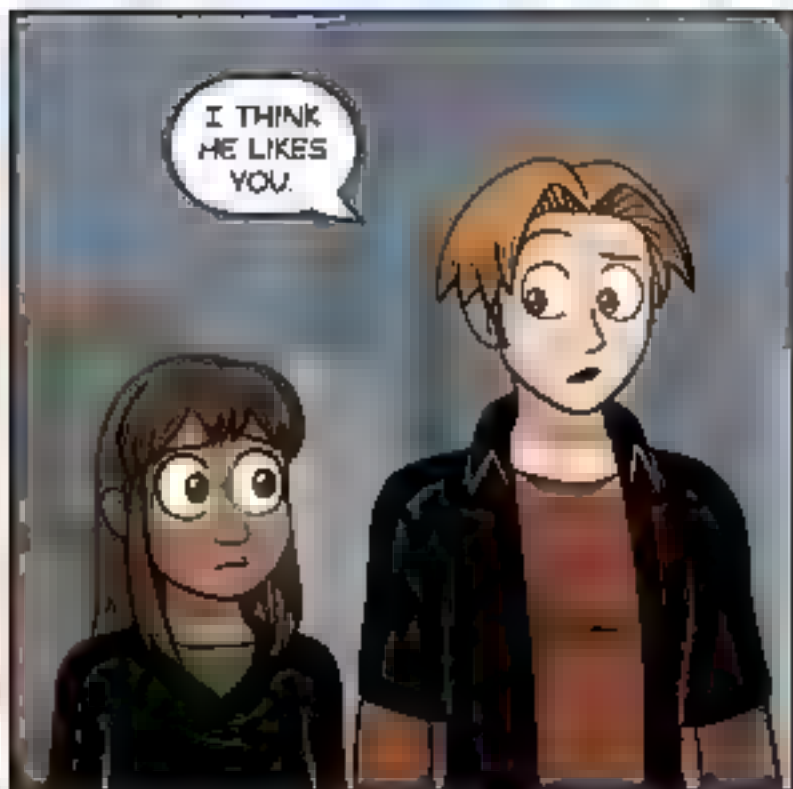
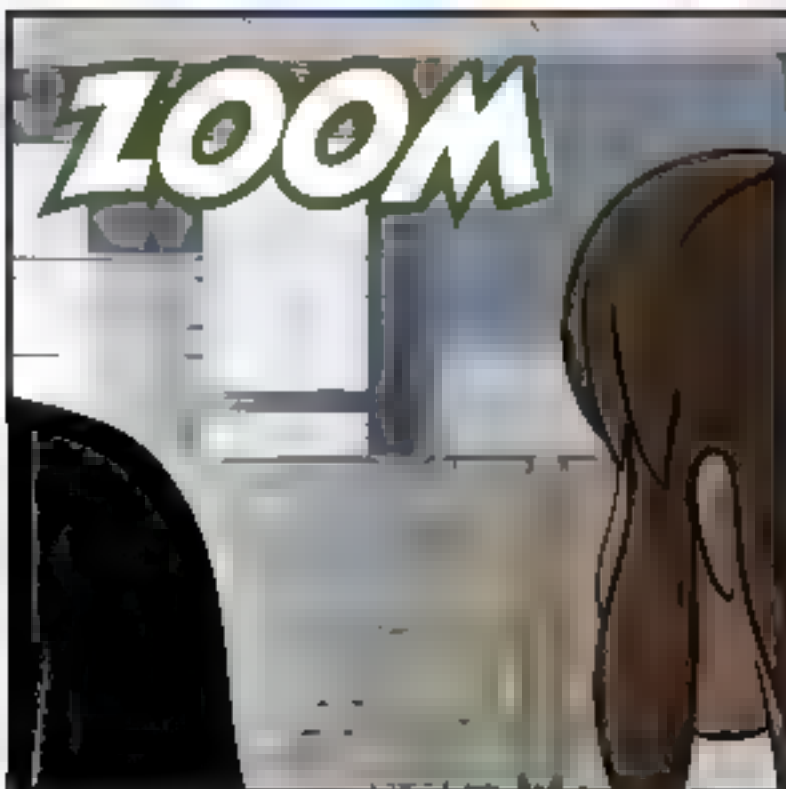
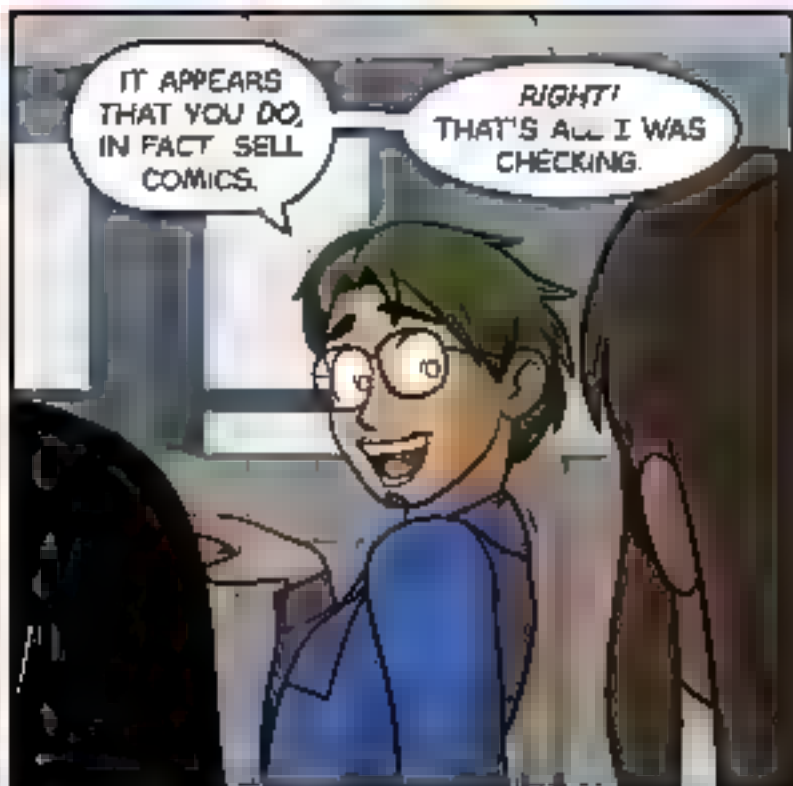
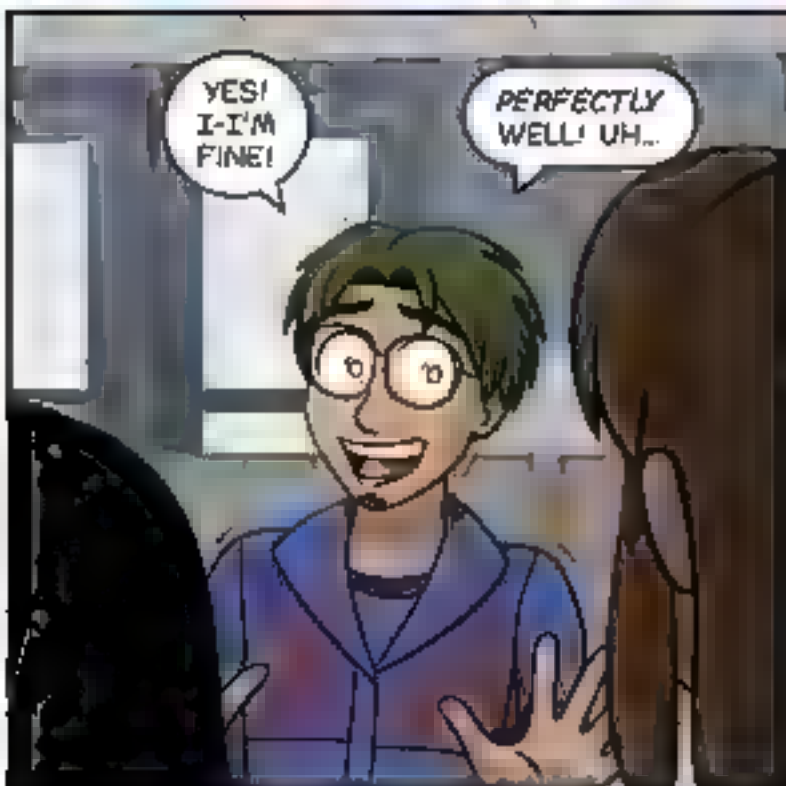
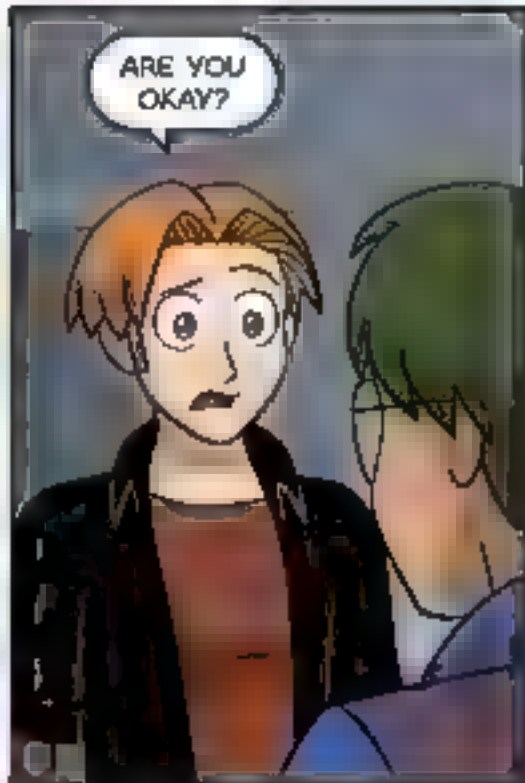
HELLO! YOU HERE FOR THE TOURNAMENT?

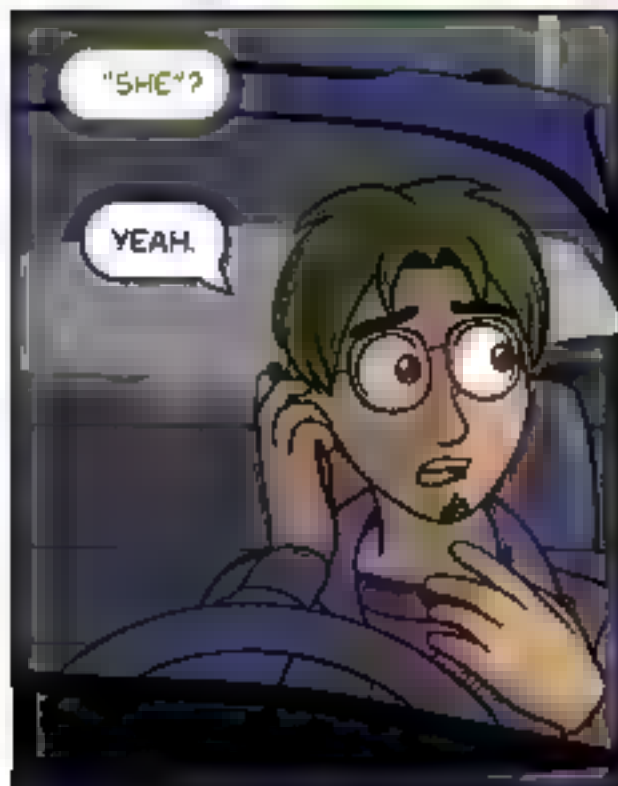
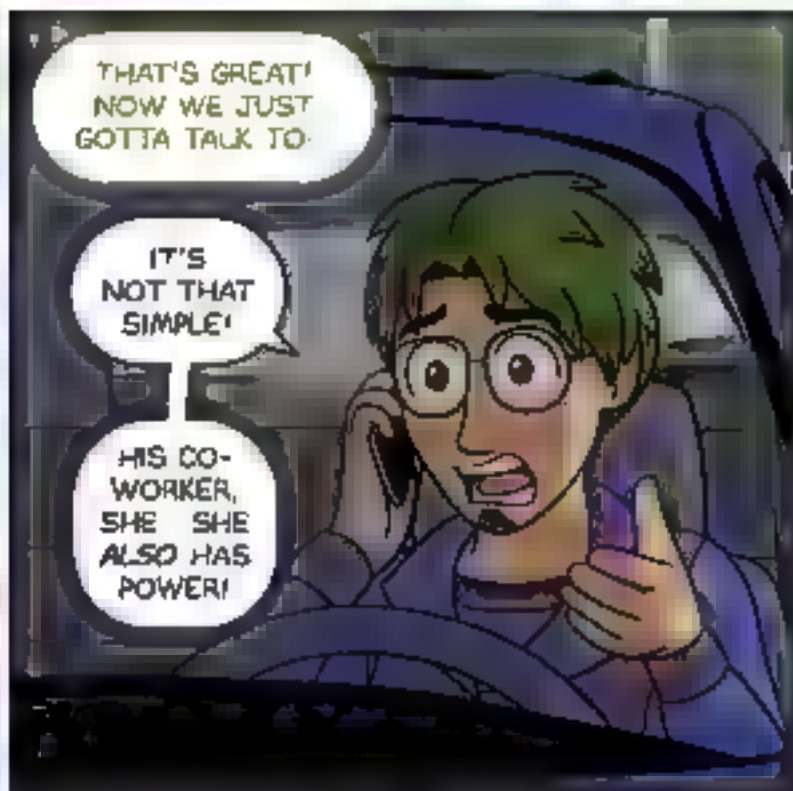
OH, NO, JUST.. CHECKING STUFF OUT... UH..

YOU'RE THAT GUY WHO KICKED THAT FIRE DUDE INTO THE RIVER. RIGHT...?









WHAT ARE WE GONNA DO? I MEAN, SHE *MIGHT* NOT HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH THAT GUY

LADY

--BUT WHAT IF SHE DOES?!

HANG ON A SEC

THEY'RE HAVING A CARD TOURNAMENT, RIGHT? ONE WHERE YOU GET THE CARDS FROM THEM?

JH, YEAH.

OKAY, ENTER THE TOURNAMENT AND USE THAT AS AN EXCUSE TO GET TO KNOW THEM BETTER. MAYBE "LOOK" AT THE OTHER PLAYERS WHILE YOU'RE AT IT

I CAN'T DO THAT!

WHY NOT? YOU KNOW HOW TO PLAY, RIGHT?

YEAH, BUT IT WAS TOTALLY AWKWARD WHEN I LEFT! I CAN'T JUST WALTZ BACK IN THERE NOW!

YOU RAN SCARED LIKE A LITTLE GIRL, DIDN'T YOU.

TWENTY FIVE? ARE YOU SERIOUS?

YOU OWE US TWICE THAT FOR PIZZA. DO THIS AND WE'LL CALL IT EVEN

DAMMIT

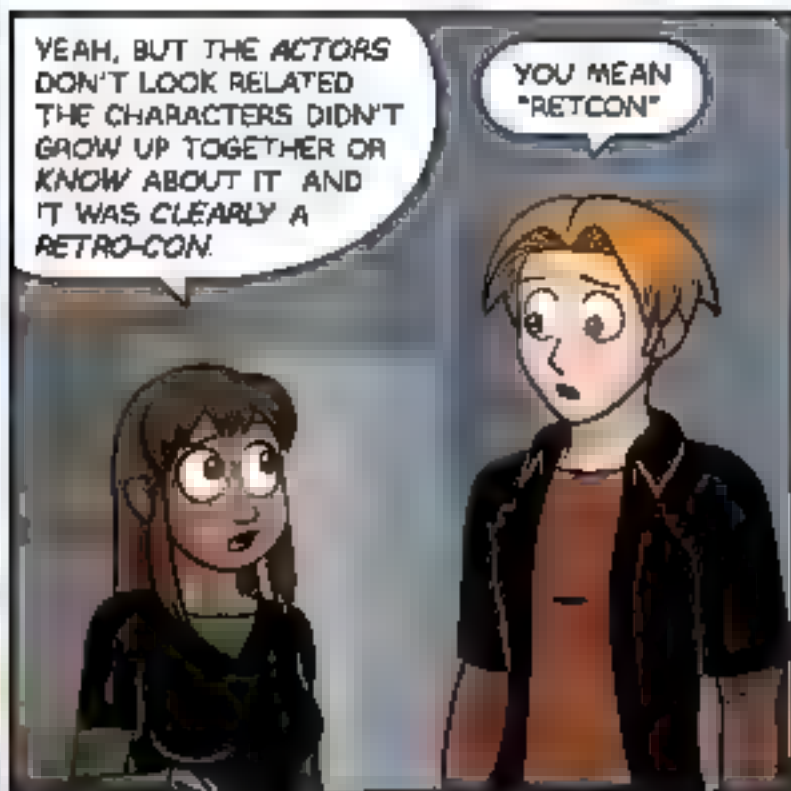
I MADE A HASTY RETREAT EVEN IF THAT WASN'T AN ISSUE. I STOPPED HANGING OUT IN COMIC SHOPS FOR A REASON, AND IT COSTS TWENTY-FIVE BUCKS TO ENTER!

WELL, THEY GIVE YOU SIX PACKS OF CARDS THAT YOU GET TO KEEP AND YOU CAN WIN EVEN MORE SO IT'S ACTUALLY TOTALLY REASONABLE BUT IT'S *STILL* TWENTY FIVE BUCKS!



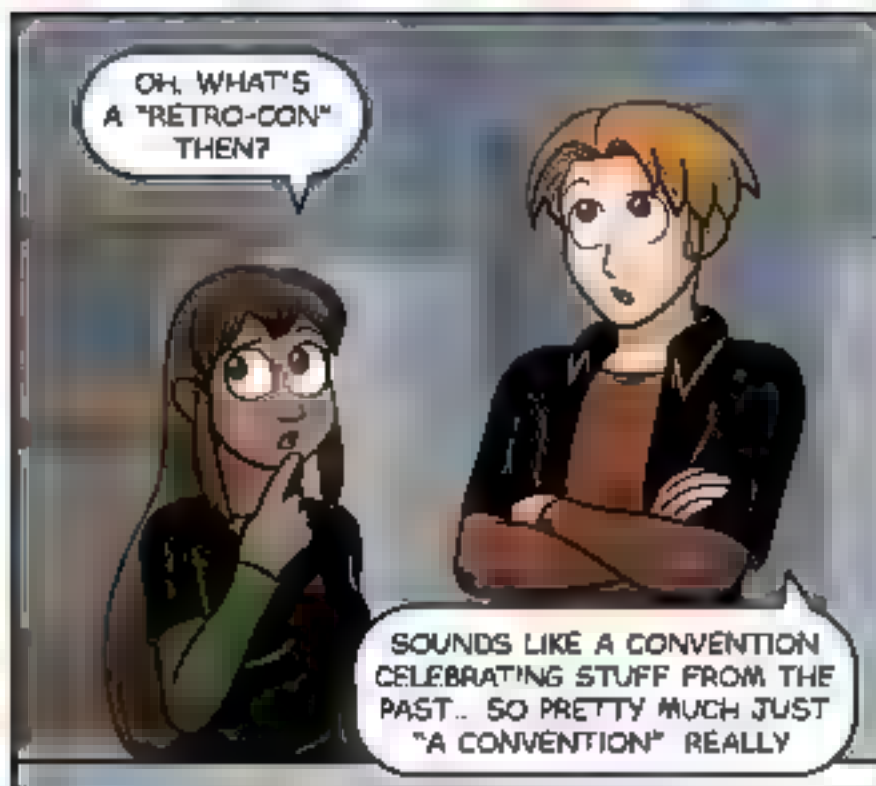
I'M JUST NOT GROSSED OUT BY IT

BUT SHE'S LUKE'S SISTER!



YEAH, BUT THE ACTORS DON'T LOOK RELATED THE CHARACTERS DIDN'T GROW UP TOGETHER OR KNOW ABOUT IT AND IT WAS CLEARLY A RETRO-CON.

YOU MEAN "RETCON"



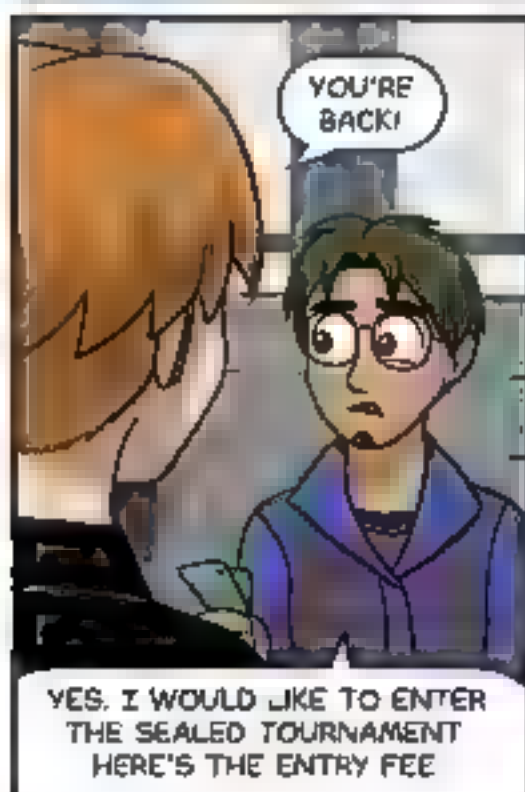
OH, WHAT'S A "RETRO-CON" THEN?

SOUNDS LIKE A CONVENTION CELEBRATING STUFF FROM THE PAST... SO PRETTY MUCH JUST "A CONVENTION" REALLY



ANYWAY I GET WHAT YOU'RE SAYING GRACE. BUT AS FAR AS THE OFFICIAL CANON'S CONCERNED, LUKE WAS TOTALLY KISSING HIS SISTER

UH. HI



YOU'RE BACK!

YES. I WOULD LIKE TO ENTER THE SEALED TOURNAMENT
HERE'S THE ENTRY FEE

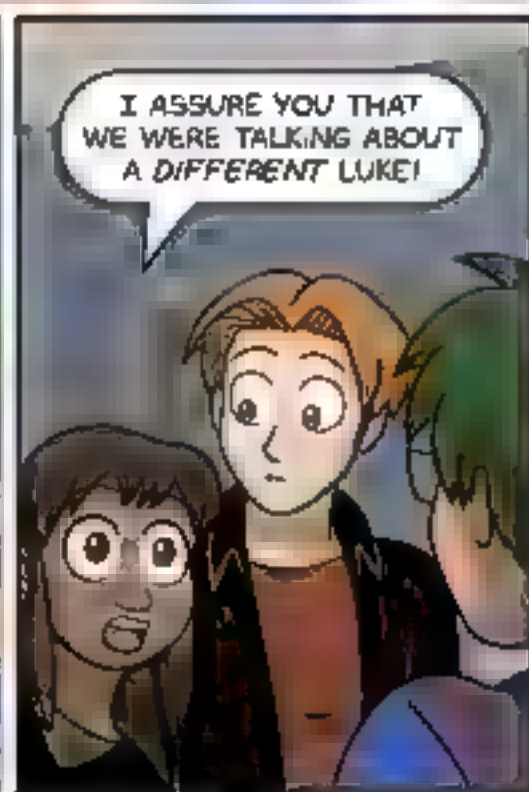


OKAY... I'LL JUST NEED YOUR NAME FOR--

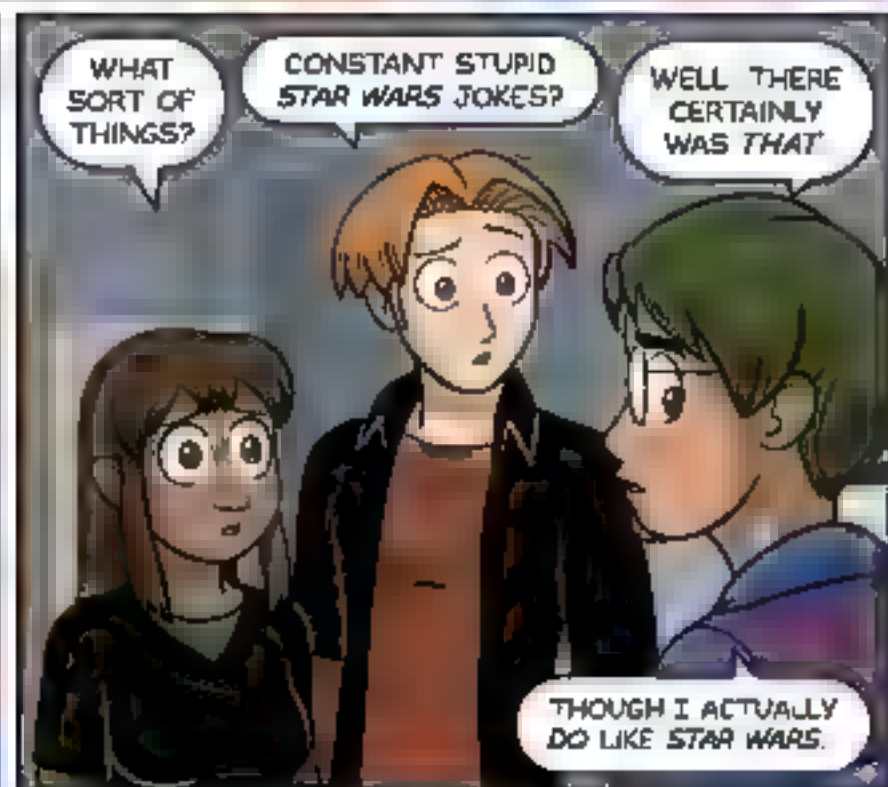
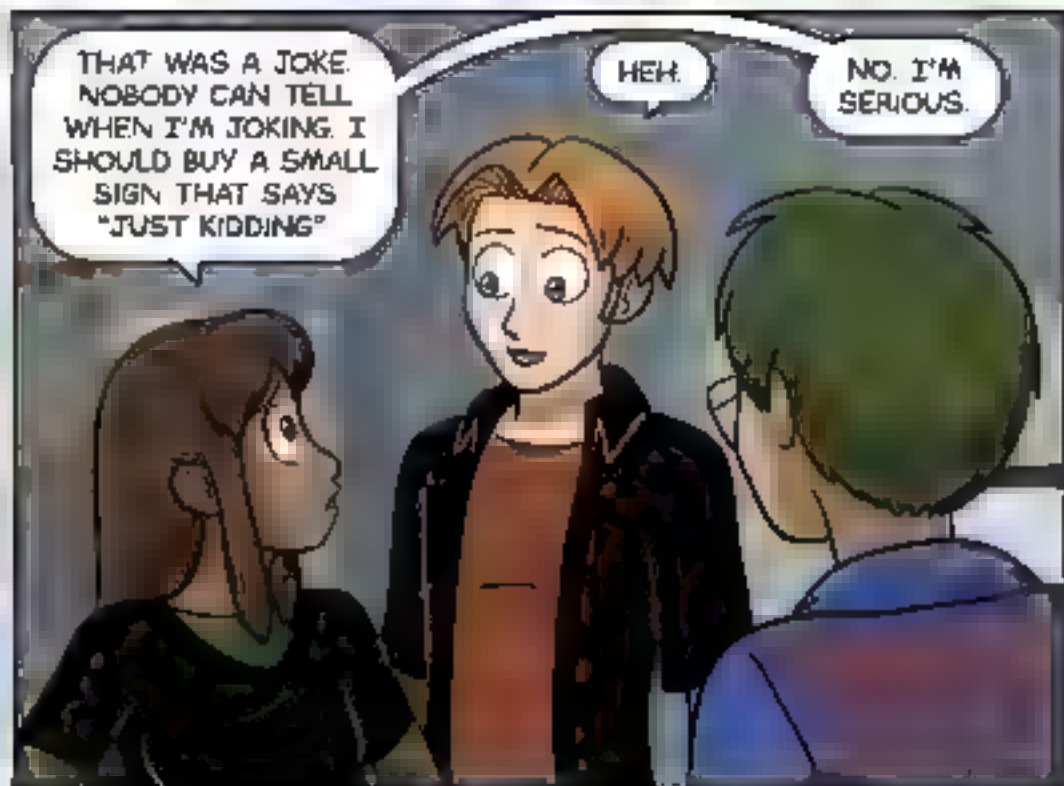
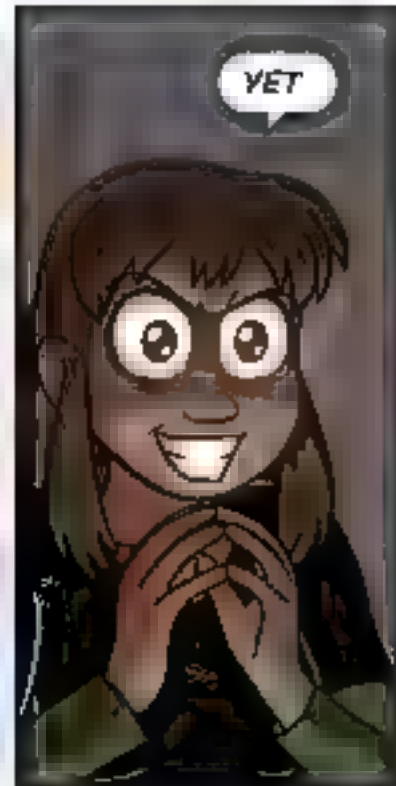
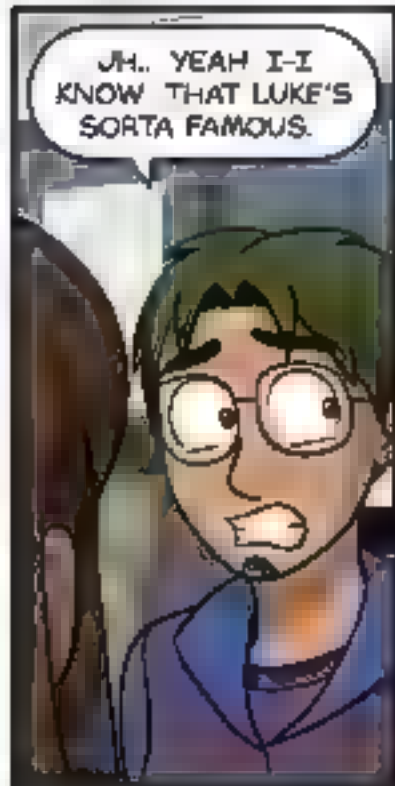
OH UH..

LUKE

SIGH



I ASSURE YOU THAT WE WERE TALKING ABOUT A DIFFERENT LUKE!



I I DON'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT IT THE TOURNAMENT'S AT SEVEN, RIGHT? MADE IT JUST IN TIME...

OFFICIALLY, YEAH, BUT IT'S NOT GONNA START UNTIL A LITTLE WHILE AFTER THAT

WHY'S THAT?

'CAUSE HALF THE PLAYERS ALWAYS SHOW UP AT THE LAST SECOND AND DELAY EVERYTHING

DON'T START! WE'RE HERE!

WE'VE GOT FIVE SECONDS LEFT!

HIS PHONE TOTALLY HAS THE OFFICIAL TIME IT CONSTANTLY CHECKS WITH A SERVER IT'S THE RIGHT TIME WE'RE NOT LATE!

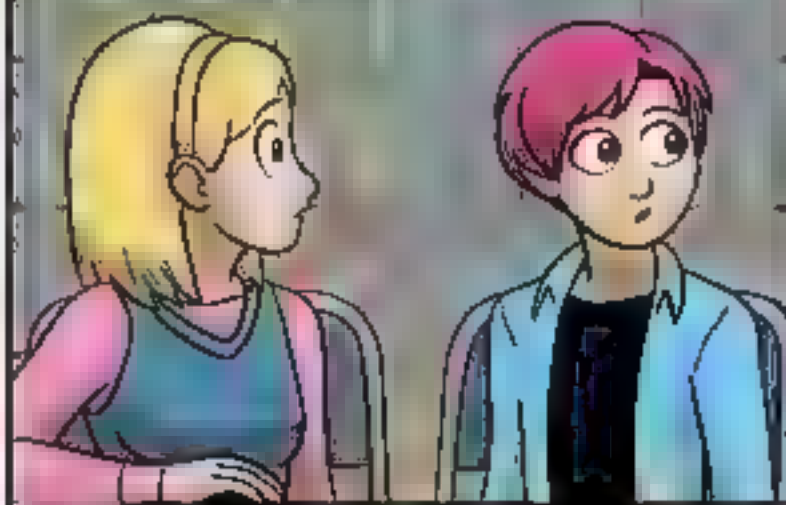
WELL, SEE IN THE TIME IT TOOK YOU TO SAY THAT...

DUDE!

RELAX. YOU'D THINK WE DIDN'T GO THROUGH THIS EVERY WEEK...

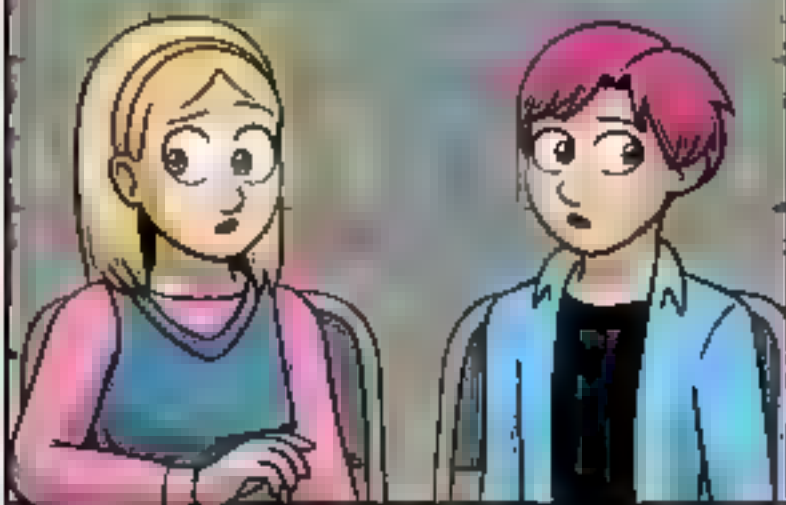
WOW UH.. A LOT
OF PEOPLE PLAY
IN THESE THINGS.
DON'T THEY?

THAT'S MY
UNDERSTANDING.
YEAH.



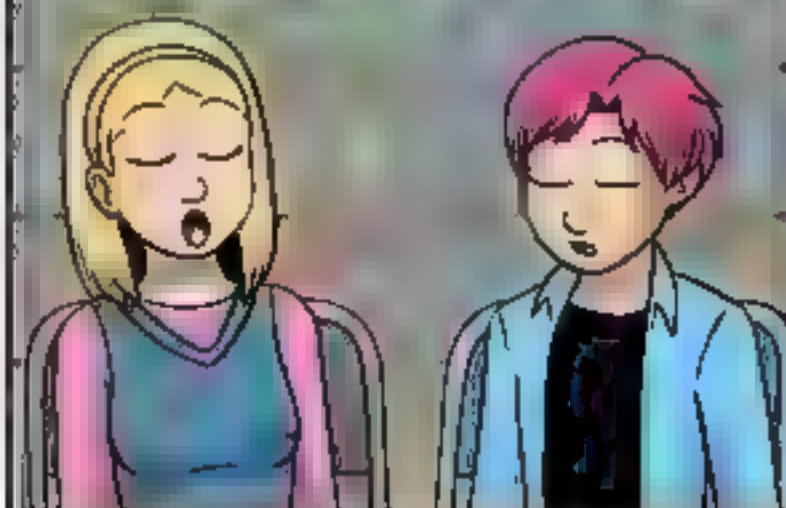
PLAYING EVERY
WEEK. THEY MUST
BE PRETTY GOOD
AT THIS GAME.

NO DOUBT



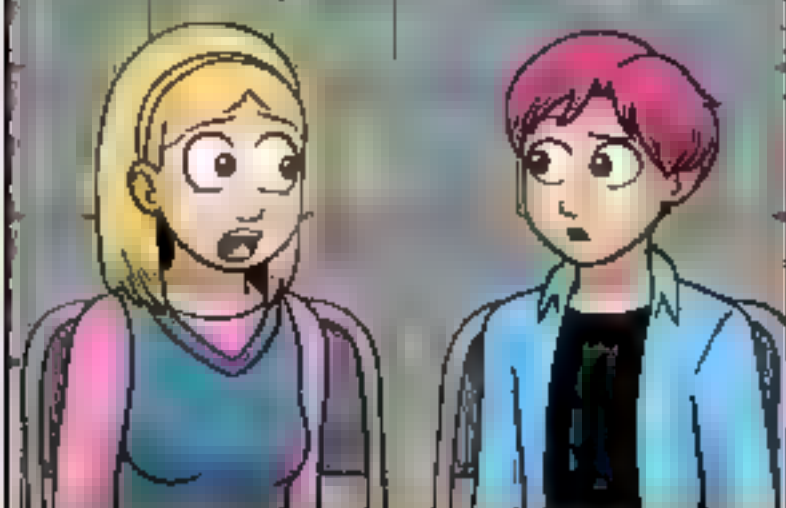
WELL, I'M JUST
IN IT FOR THE DECK
MAKING. I DON'T
MIND IF I LOSE.

YOU'VE
ALWAYS BEEN
A GOOD
SPORT



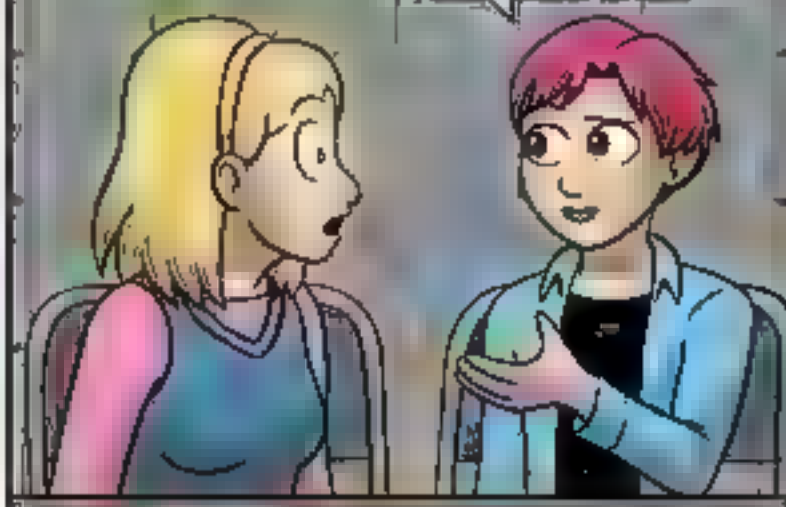
I MEAN. IT'D BE EMBARRASSING
IF I GOT MY ASS HANDED TO
ME. HUMILIATING, REALLY BUT
THAT'S FINE I'M FINE WE'RE
ALL FINE HERE HOW ARE YOU?

UH
FINE?



NO YOU'RE
NOT I SEE
IT IN YOUR
EYES

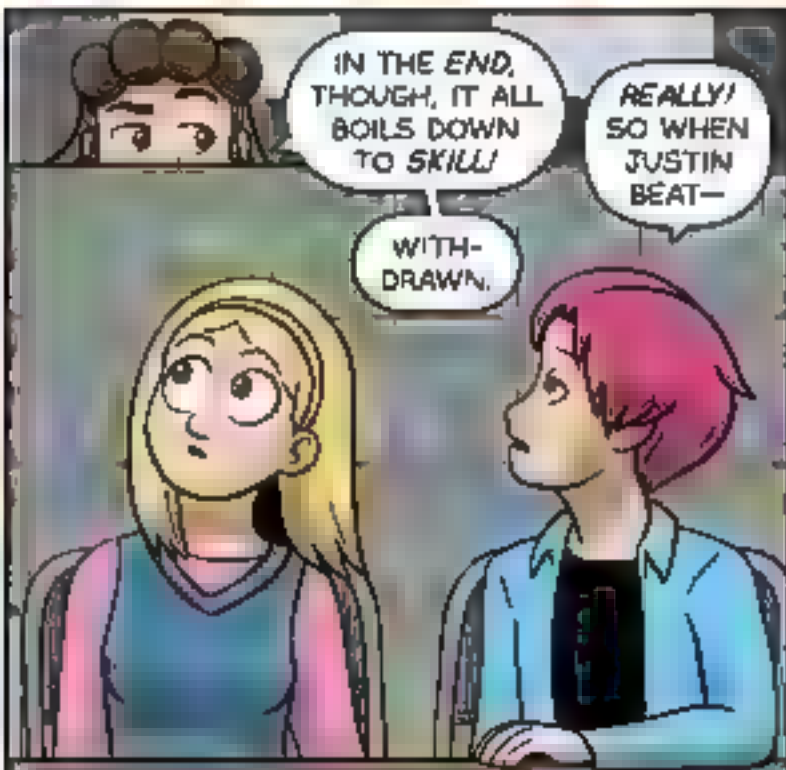
SARAH. RELAX. OKAY?
YOU KNOW HOW TO PLAY
AND EVERYONE'S GONNA
HAVE A RANDOM POOL OF
CARDS. A LOT OF IT WILL
BE ABOUT LUCK.

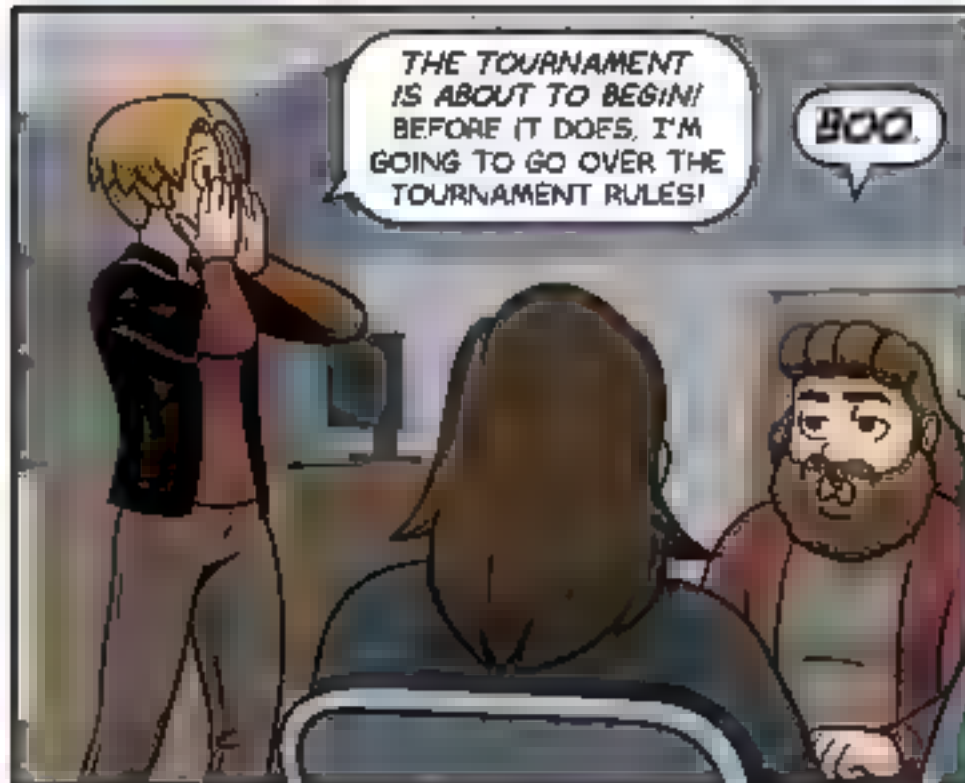


IN THE END,
THOUGH, IT ALL
BOILS DOWN
TO SKILL!

REALLY!
SO WHEN
JUSTIN
BEAT—

WITH-
DRAWN.





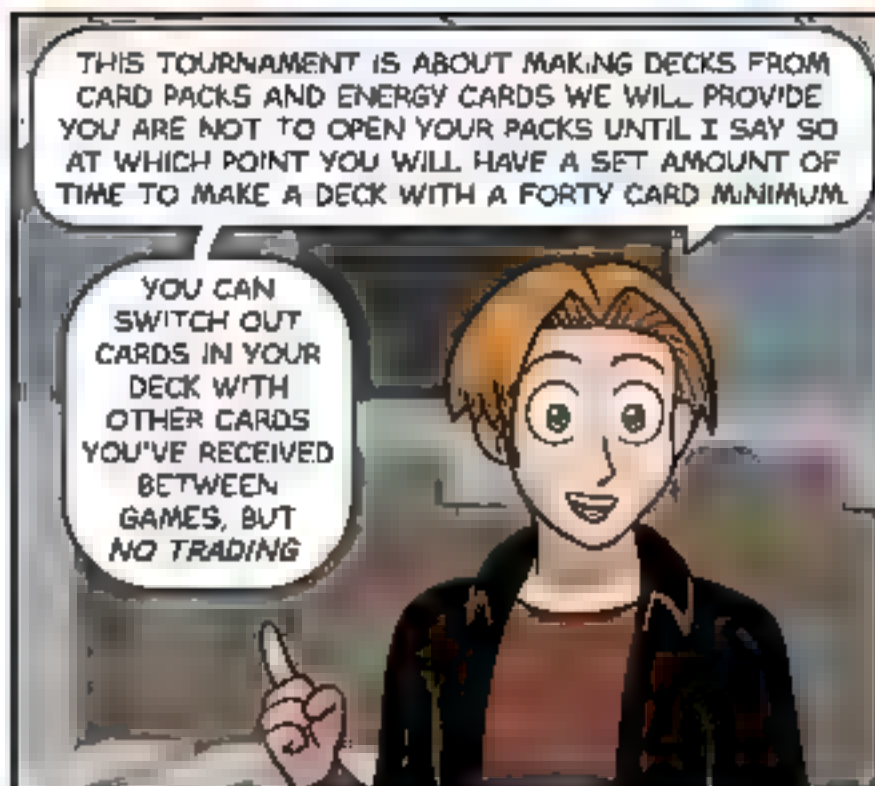
THE TOURNAMENT IS ABOUT TO BEGIN! BEFORE IT DOES, I'M GOING TO GO OVER THE TOURNAMENT RULES!

BOO



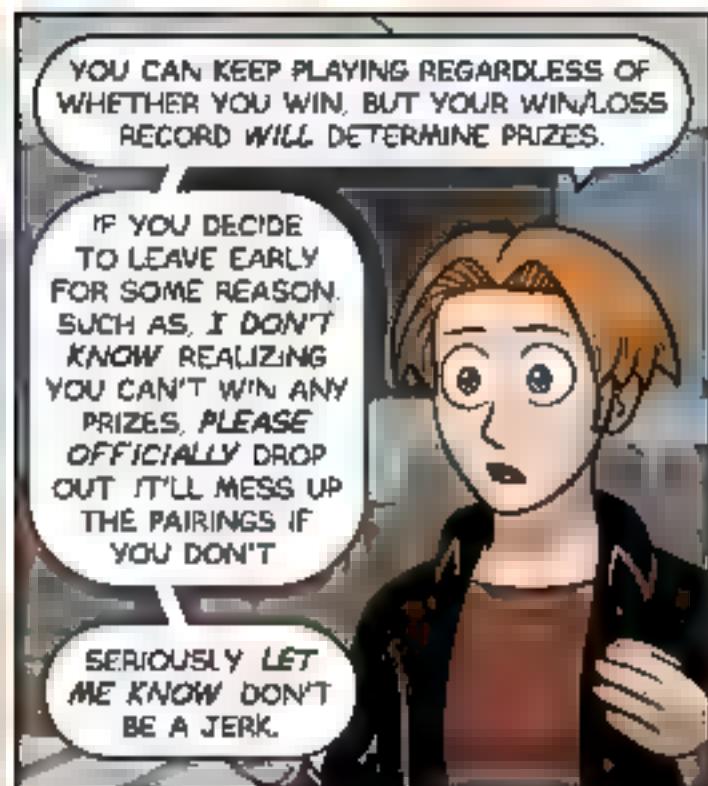
I AM AWARE THAT MOST OF YOU KNOW THESE RULES, BUT WE HAVE NEW PLAYERS TONIGHT AND I KNOW FOR A FACT THAT A LOT OF YOU ARE BAD LISTENERS.

BOO



THIS TOURNAMENT IS ABOUT MAKING DECKS FROM CARD PACKS AND ENERGY CARDS WE WILL PROVIDE YOU ARE NOT TO OPEN YOUR PACKS UNTIL I SAY SO AT WHICH POINT YOU WILL HAVE A SET AMOUNT OF TIME TO MAKE A DECK WITH A FORTY CARD MINIMUM.

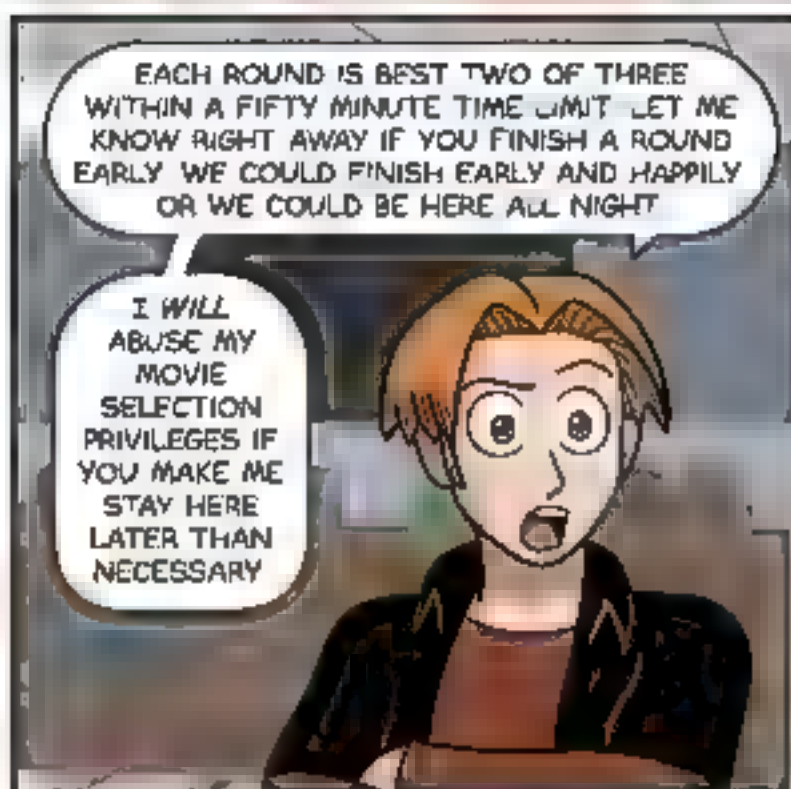
YOU CAN SWITCH OUT CARDS IN YOUR DECK WITH OTHER CARDS YOU'VE RECEIVED BETWEEN GAMES, BUT NO TRADING



YOU CAN KEEP PLAYING REGARDLESS OF WHETHER YOU WIN, BUT YOUR WIN/LOSS RECORD WILL DETERMINE PRIZES.

IF YOU DECIDE TO LEAVE EARLY FOR SOME REASON, SUCH AS, I DON'T KNOW REALIZING YOU CAN'T WIN ANY PRIZES, PLEASE OFFICIALLY DROP OUT IT'LL MESS UP THE PAIRINGS IF YOU DON'T

SERIOUSLY LET ME KNOW DON'T BE A JERK.



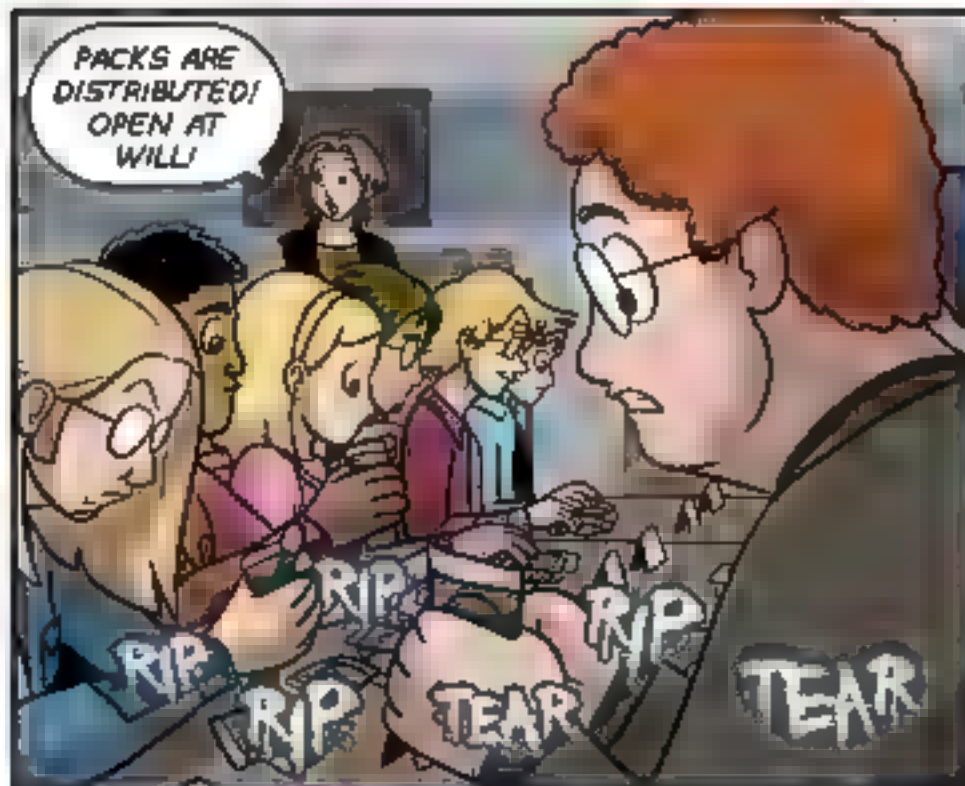
EACH ROUND IS BEST TWO OF THREE WITHIN A FIFTY MINUTE TIME LIMIT LET ME KNOW RIGHT AWAY IF YOU FINISH A ROUND EARLY WE COULD FINISH EARLY AND HAPPILY OR WE COULD BE HERE ALL NIGHT

I WILL ABUSE MY MOVIE SELECTION PRIVILEGES IF YOU MAKE ME STAY HERE LATER THAN NECESSARY

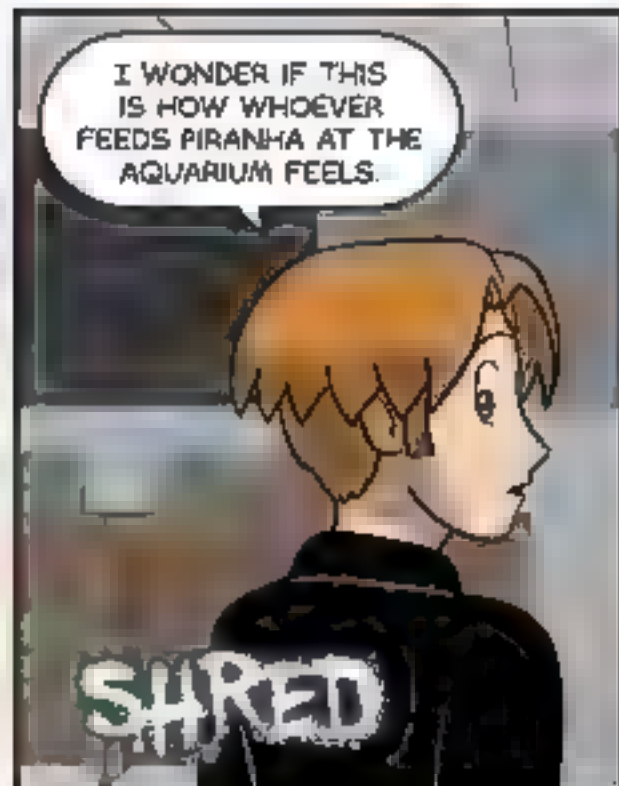


LASTLY THE STORE HAS A RESTROOM WHICH YOU MAY USE WITH PERMISSION, BUT DON'T MAKE A MESS, WASH YOUR HANDS, AND FOR GOODNESS SAKE. CLOSE THE DOOR.

I KNOW MOST OF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BELIEVE SAYING THAT ISN'T NECESSARY, BUT AS I'VE SADLY LEARNED, THAT'S NOT THE WORLD WE LIVE IN

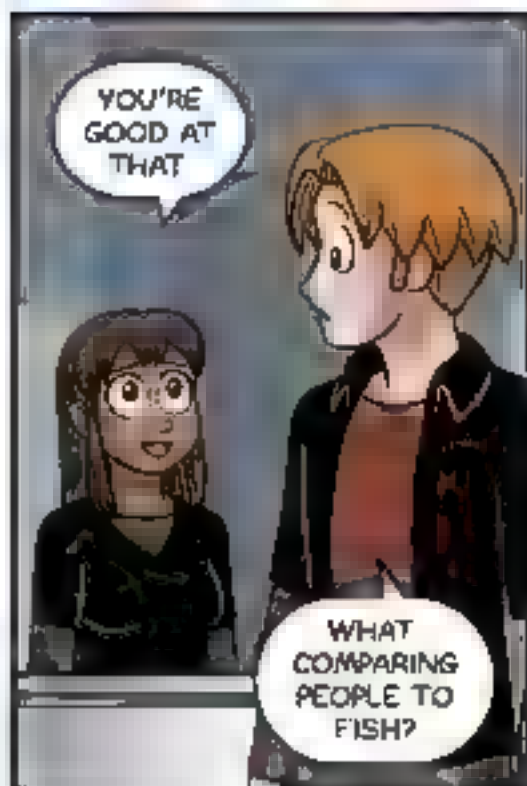


PACKS ARE
DISTRIBUTED!
OPEN AT
WILL!



I WONDER IF THIS
IS HOW WHOEVER
FEEDS PIRANHA AT THE
AQUARIUM FEELS.

SHRED



YOU'RE
GOOD AT
THAT

WHAT
COMPARING
PEOPLE TO
FISH?



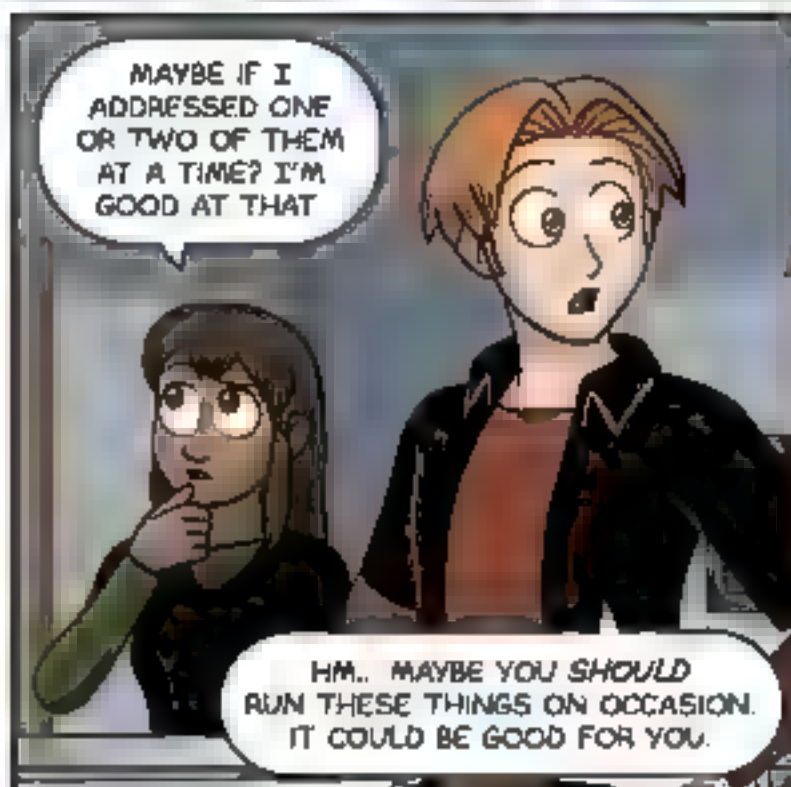
BEING IN CHARGE AND PUBLIC
SPEAKING AND STUFF

I'M SO GLAD
IT'S NOT MY JOB TO
RUN THESE THINGS.



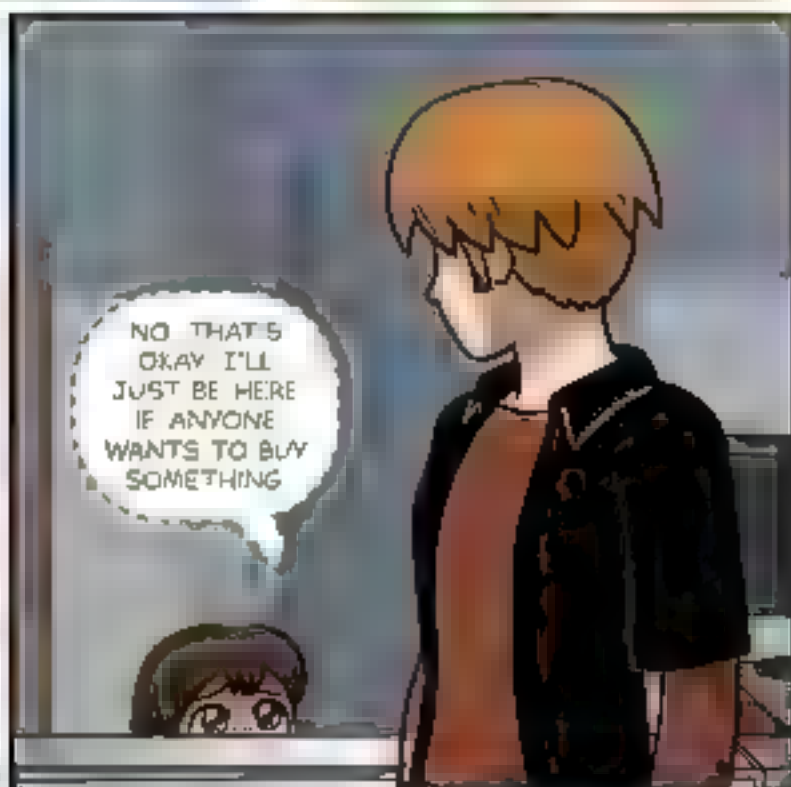
AND JM PLEASE LET
ME KNOW IF YOU'RE JM.
LEAVING EARLY BECAUSE
IF YOU DON'T T JM T
WILL MESS UP I MEAN

LOUDER!



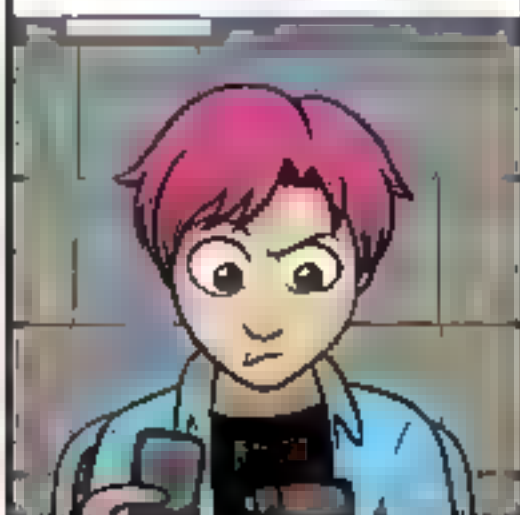
MAYBE IF I
ADDRESSED ONE
OR TWO OF THEM
AT A TIME? I'M
GOOD AT THAT

HM... MAYBE YOU SHOULD
RUN THESE THINGS ON OCCASION.
IT COULD BE GOOD FOR YOU.



NO THAT'S
OKAY I'LL
JUST BE HERE
IF ANYONE
WANTS TO BUY
SOMETHING

ENERGY EFFICIENT EFFICIENT,
NOT EFFICIENT NOT EFFICIENT
BUT PRETTY DAMN COOL



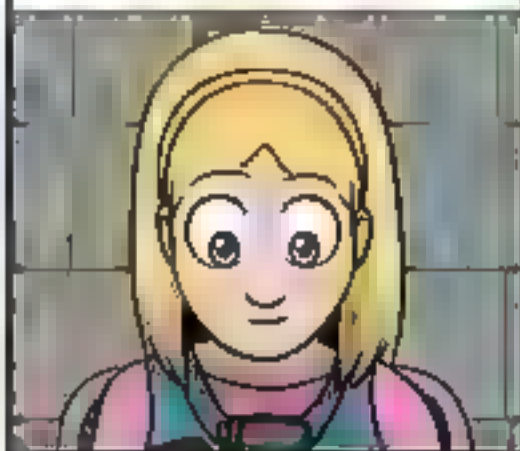
COOL, COOL, WEAK. SELL BACK
TO STORE, WEAK, THROW AT
JUSTIN LATER, COOL



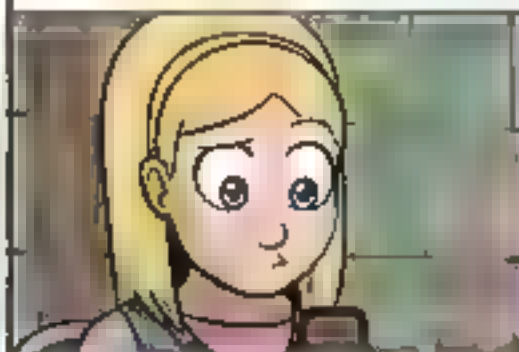
SORT SORT SORT
SORT SORT SORT



VAMPIRE. ANOTHER VAMPIRE
(MAN I'VE GOT A LOT OF
VAMPIRES) SPELL... SOME SORT
OF ANTELOPE THING? SPELL,
WEREWOLF! YES!



I SHOULD HAVE JUST ENOUGH
OF THE RIGHT CARDS FOR MY
WEREWOLF PONY DECK!



WAIT WHAT'S WITH THE
RARE CARD IN THIS PACK? WHY
IS THE EXPANSION SYMBOL A
WEIRD ORANGE COLOR?

WELL, IT'S A VAMPIRE,
SO I GUESS IT DOESN'T
OH MY GOD



O.P. Aludrakrala

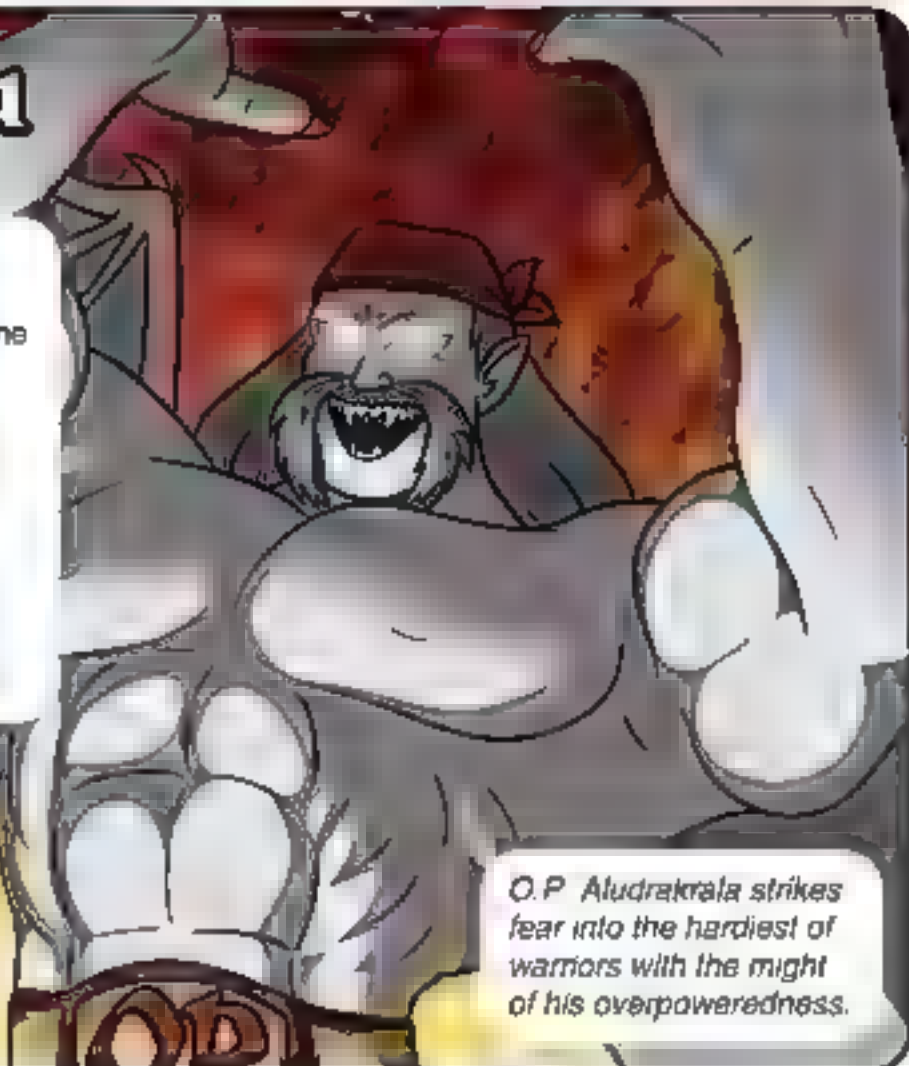
5 Attack / 5 Health

Costs 5 Energy to play Vampire.

Flies, cannot be the target of spells. Only one O.P. Aludrakrala may be in play at a time.

Whenever O.P. Aludrakrala kills a monster it gains a permanent +1 bonus to attack and health.

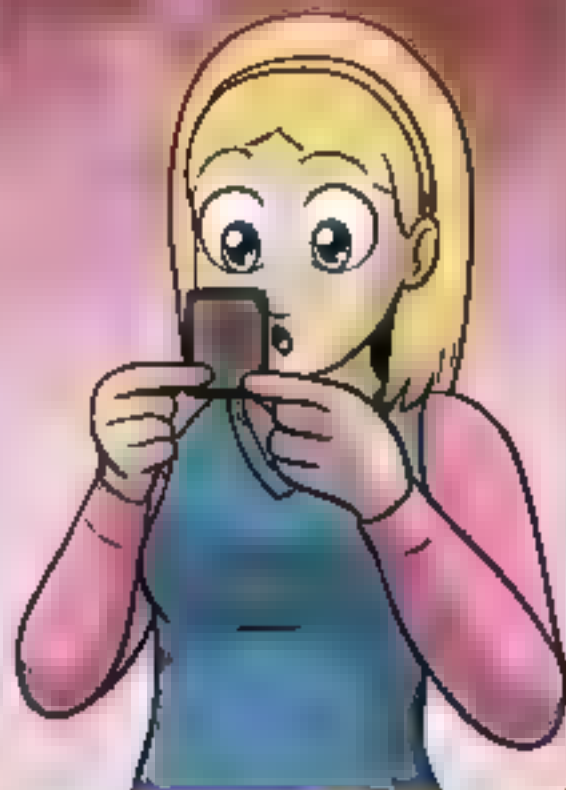
Each other vampire you control gets +X to their attack and health, where X equals the number of +1 bonuses on O.P. Aludrakrala.



O.P. Aludrakrala strikes fear into the hardest of warriors with the might of his overpoweredness.

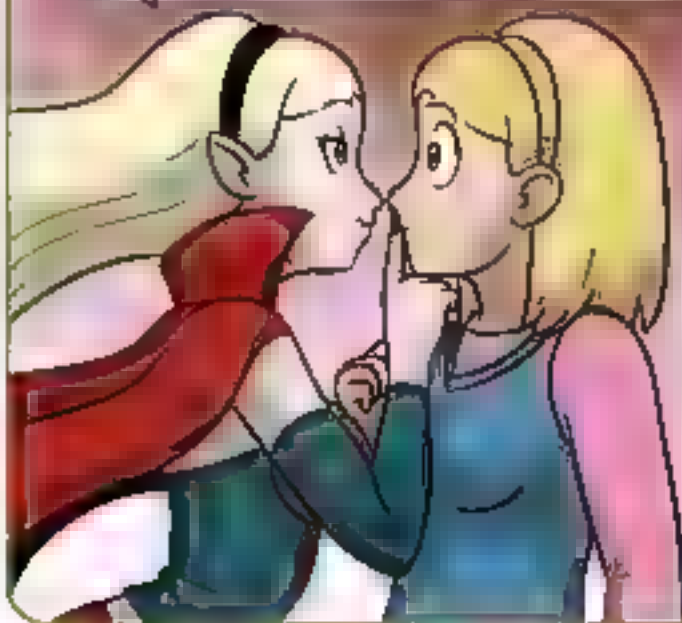
WELL, NOW,
WOULD YOU LOOK
AT THAT!

LOOKS LIKE
SOMEONE
SHOULD BUILD A
VAMPIRE DECK!



AND THAT SOMEONE...

IS YOU.



OR "US"? "ME"? I AM SORTA YOU WELL,
PART OF YOU. THE PART THAT WANTS TO BUILD
A VAMPIRE DECK. HOW ARE PRONOUNS SUPPOSED
TO WORK WITH THIS SORT OF THING?



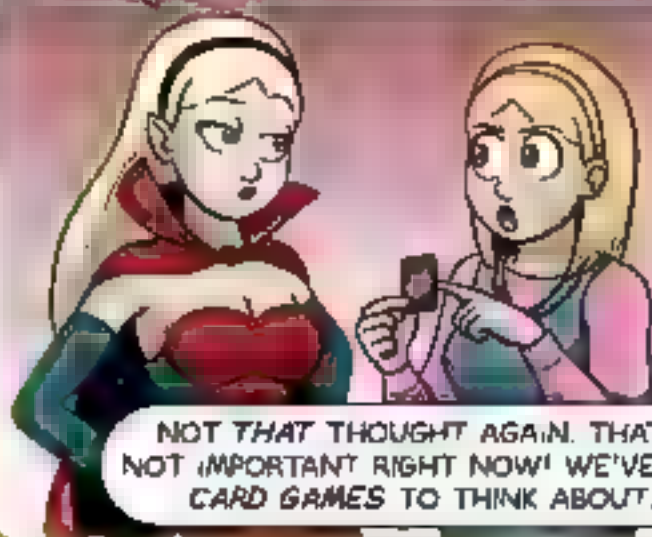
JUST GO WITH
"YOU" IT'S LESS
CONFUSING

RIGHT WHERE WAS
I? OH YEAH. SEDUCING
YOU INTO MAKING A
VAMPIRE DECK.

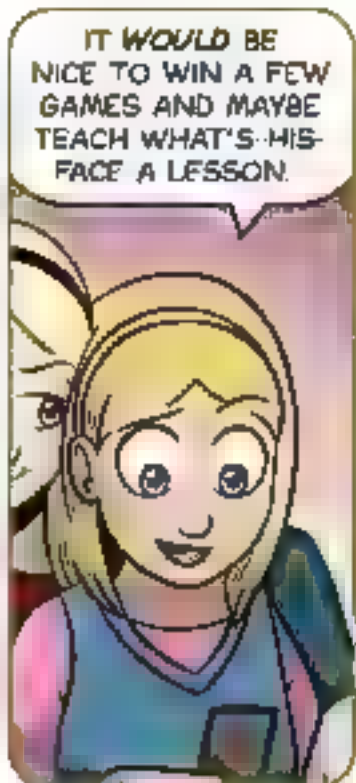
WHY SEDUCING?
I'M NOT GAY ALSO.
YOU'RE ME A
BENDY HOURGLASSY
HOT ME BUT STILL



UM, HELLO? GRATUITOUSLY OVER-THE-TOP
SEXY VAMPIRE? BESIDES WHICH, AFTER ALL THE
TIME YOU'VE SPENT AS A BISEXUAL BOY YOU
AIN'T EXACTLY "STRAIGHT" ANYMORE. EITHER.



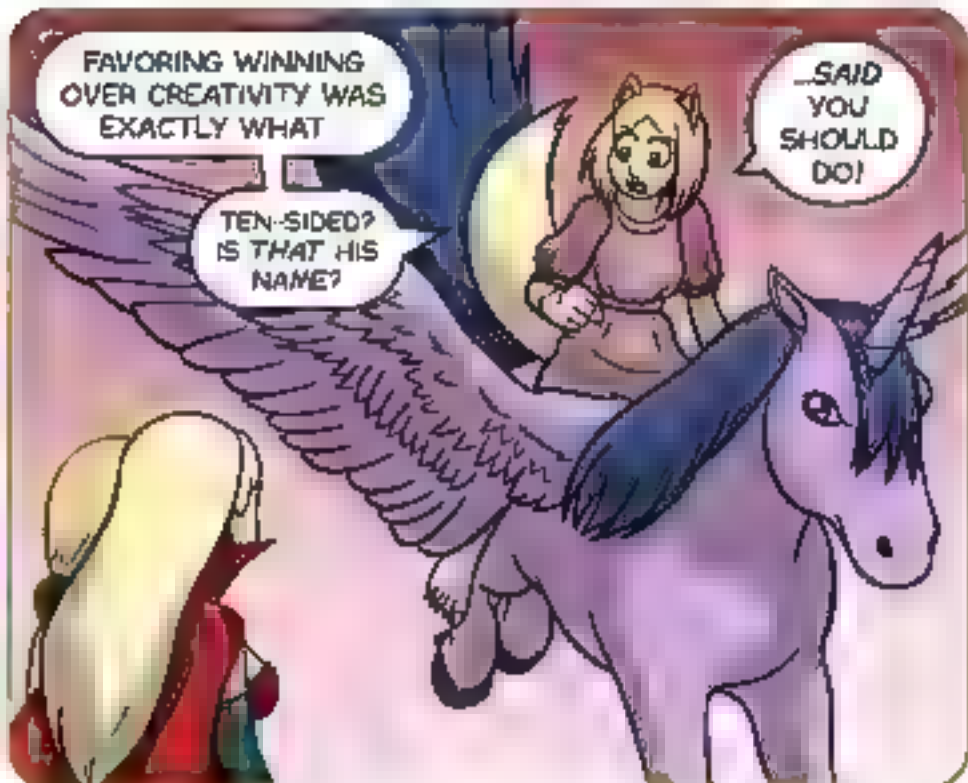
NOT THAT THOUGHT AGAIN. THAT'S
NOT IMPORTANT RIGHT NOW! WE'VE GOT
CARD GAMES TO THINK ABOUT!



IT WOULD BE NICE TO WIN A FEW GAMES AND MAYBE TEACH WHAT'S HIS FACE A LESSON.



WHAT LESSON? THAT HE WAS RIGHT?



FAVORING WINNING OVER CREATIVITY WAS EXACTLY WHAT

TEN-SIDED? IS THAT HIS NAME?

...SAID YOU SHOULD DO!



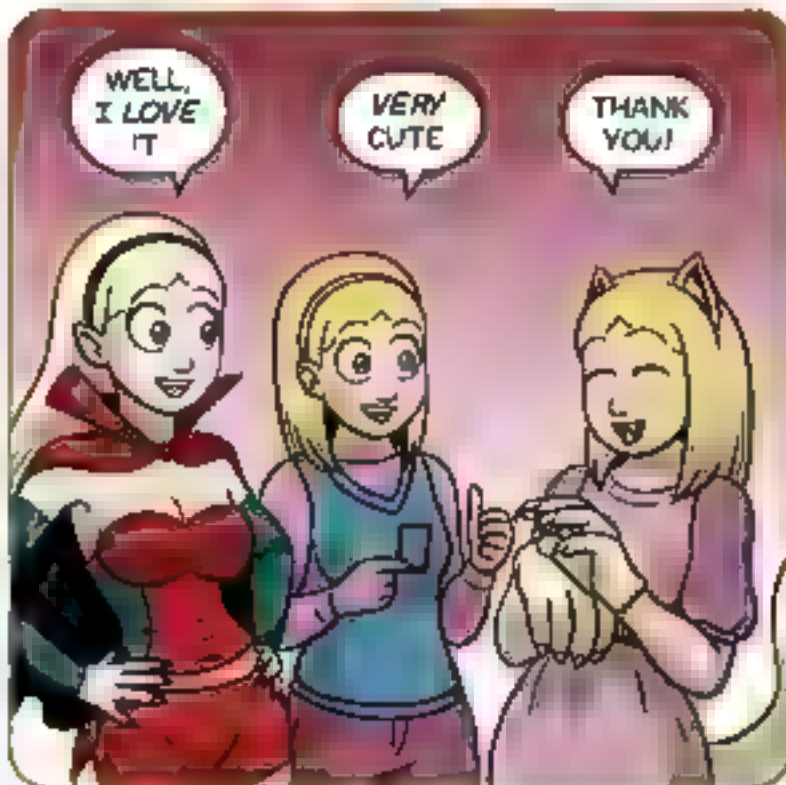
OH. MY GOD.



YOU'RE **ADORABLE!**



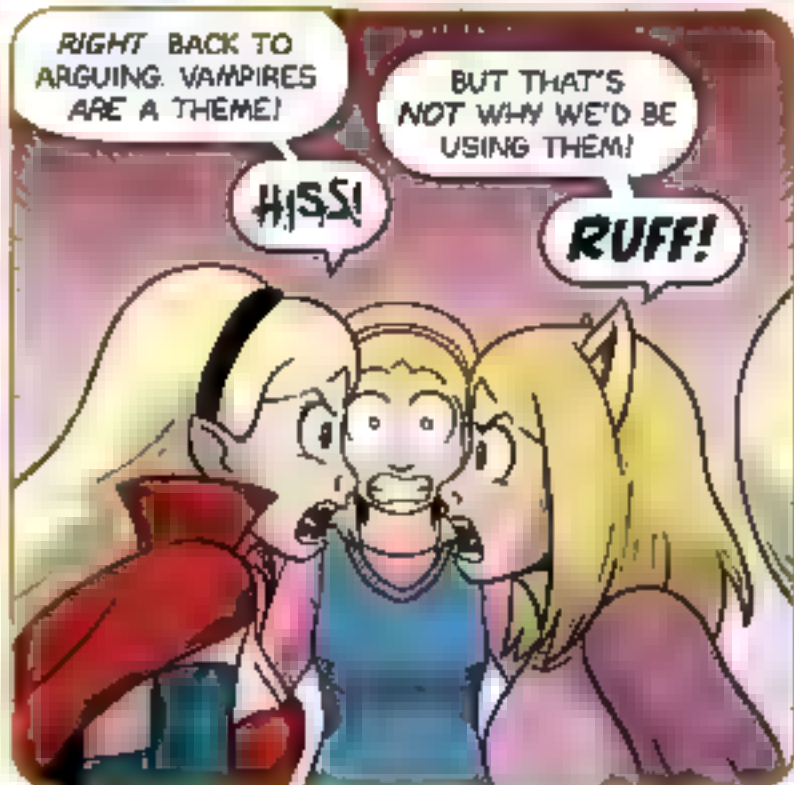
I KNOW RIGHT? I WAS GONNA SHOW UP IN FULL WOLF FORM, BUT WE PREFER WOLF FORMS THAT CAN'T TALK SO, YA KNOW COMPROMISE!



WELL, I LOVE IT

VERY CUTE

THANK YOU!

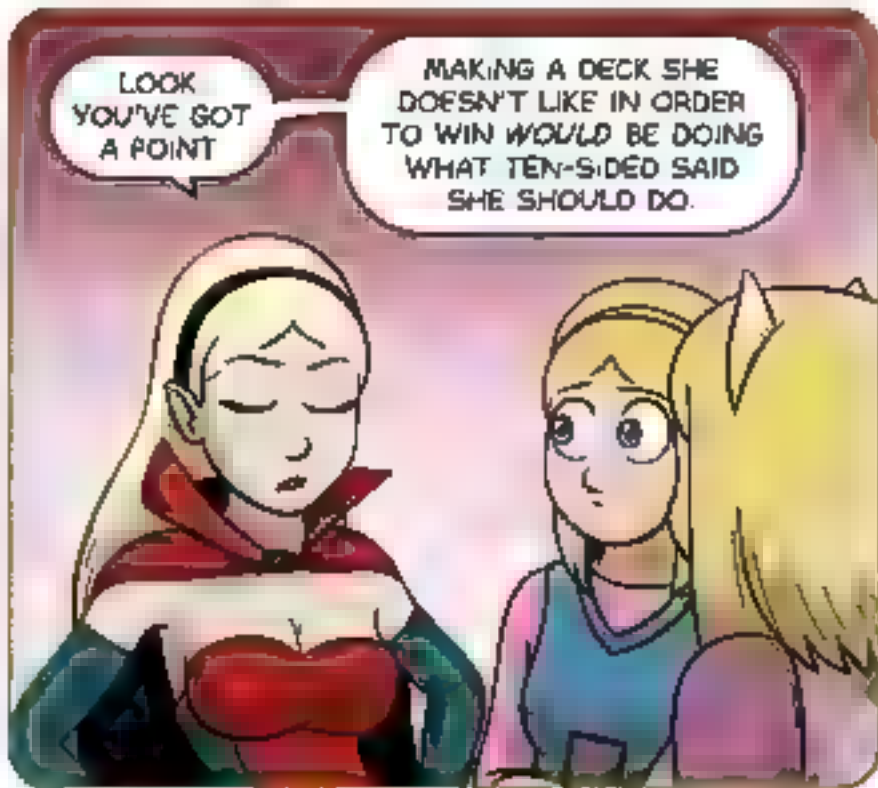


RIGHT BACK TO ARGUING. VAMPIRES ARE A THEME!

BUT THAT'S NOT WHY WE'D BE USING THEM!

HISS!

RUFF!

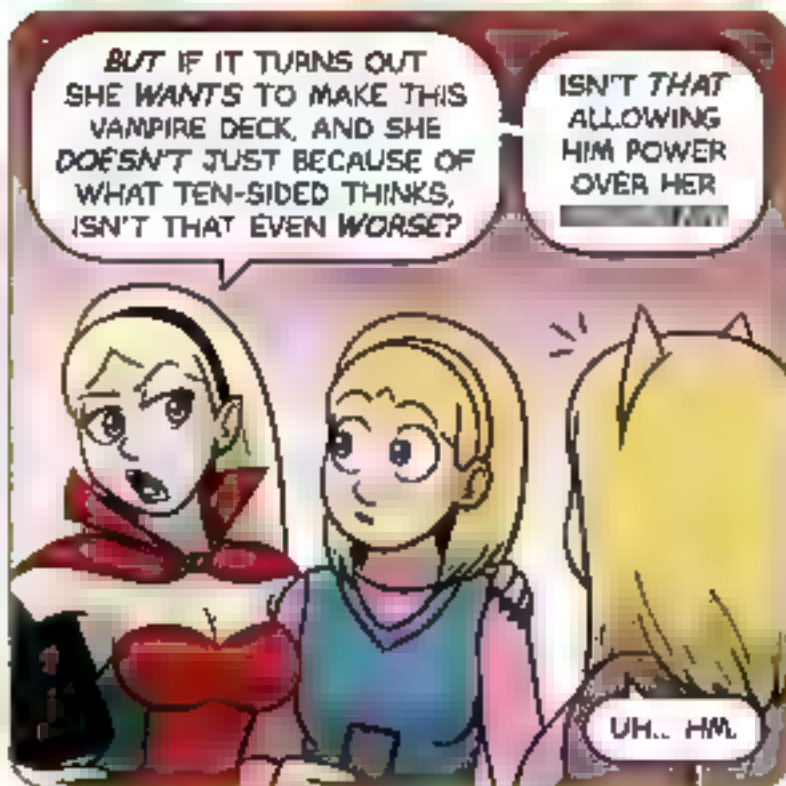


LOOK
YOU'VE GOT
A POINT

MAKING A DECK SHE
DOESN'T LIKE IN ORDER
TO WIN WOULD BE DOING
WHAT TEN-SIDED SAID
SHE SHOULD DO.



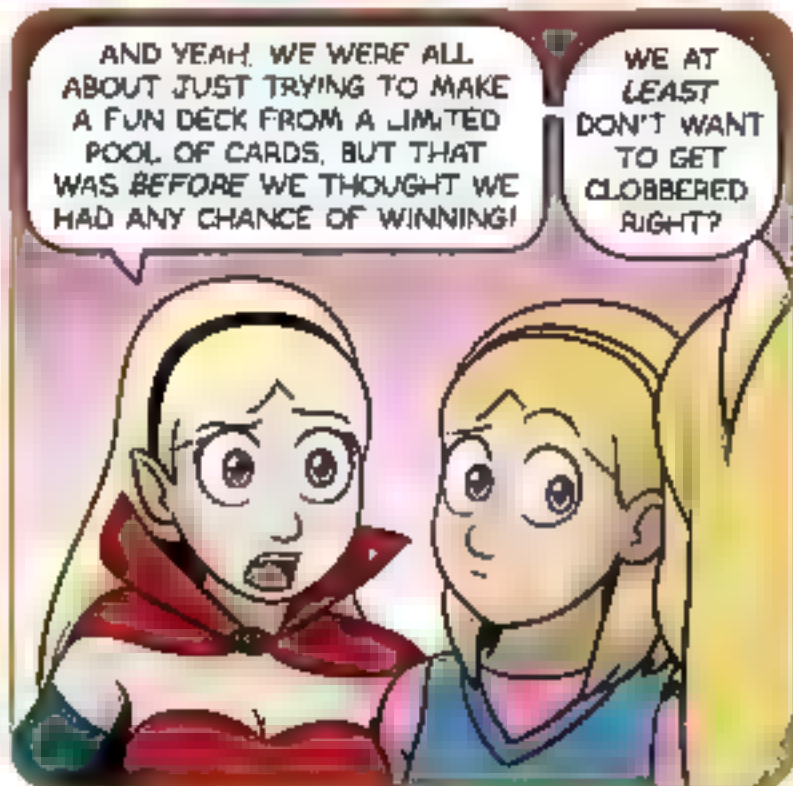
YES! IT WOULD
BE PROVING HIM
RIGHT!



BUT IF IT TURNS OUT
SHE WANTS TO MAKE THIS
VAMPIRE DECK, AND SHE
DOESN'T JUST BECAUSE OF
WHAT TEN-SIDED THINKS,
ISN'T THAT EVEN WORSE?

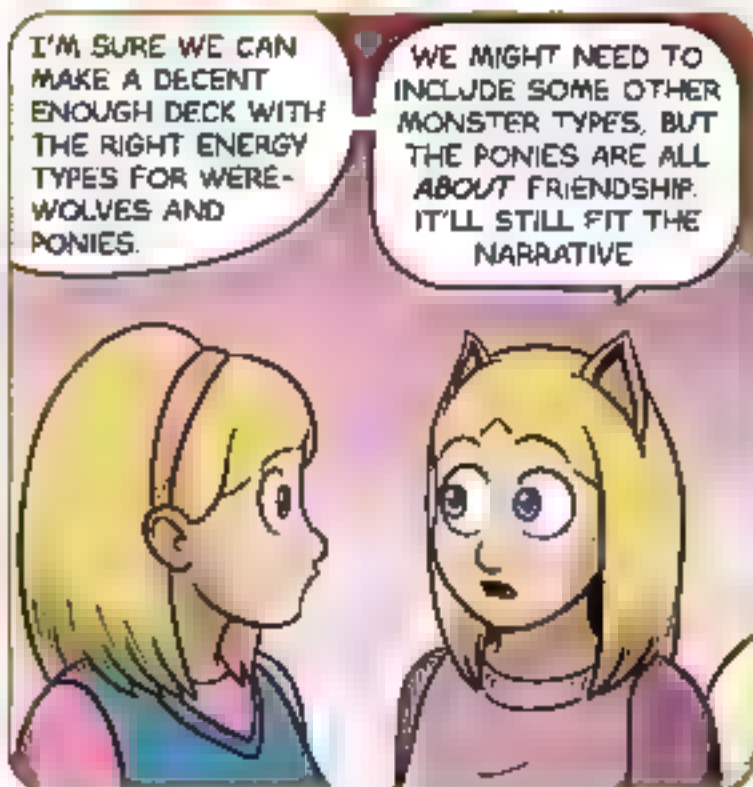
ISN'T THAT
ALLOWING
HIM POWER
OVER HER

UH... HM.



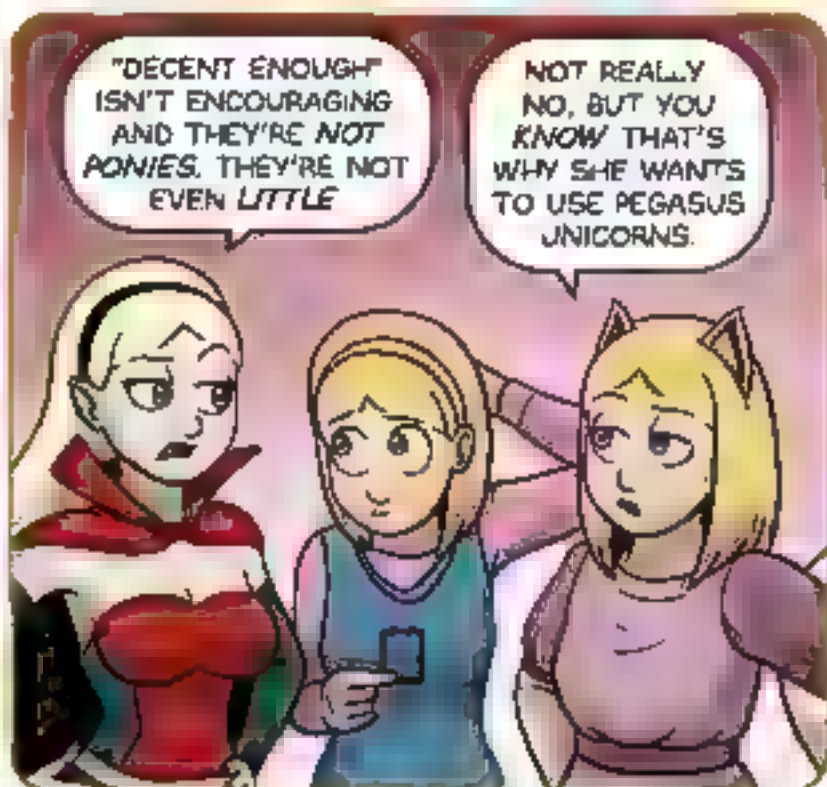
AND YEAH, WE WERE ALL
ABOUT JUST TRYING TO MAKE
A FUN DECK FROM A LIMITED
POOL OF CARDS, BUT THAT
WAS BEFORE WE THOUGHT WE
HAD ANY CHANCE OF WINNING!

WE AT
LEAST
DON'T WANT
TO GET
CLOBBERED
RIGHT?



I'M SURE WE CAN
MAKE A DECENT
ENOUGH DECK WITH
THE RIGHT ENERGY
TYPES FOR WERE-
WOLVES AND
PONIES.

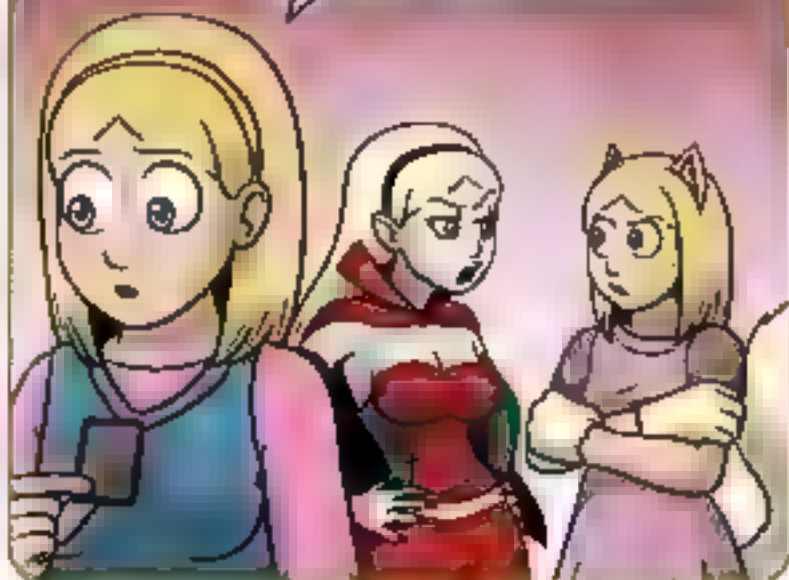
WE MIGHT NEED TO
INCLUDE SOME OTHER
MONSTER TYPES, BUT
THE PONIES ARE ALL
ABOUT FRIENDSHIP.
IT'LL STILL FIT THE
NARRATIVE



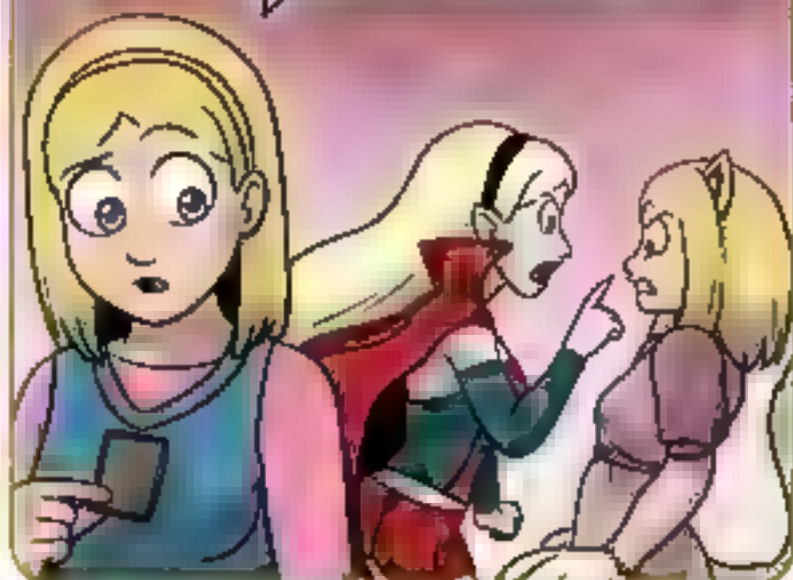
"DECENT ENOUGH"
ISN'T ENCOURAGING
AND THEY'RE NOT
PONIES. THEY'RE NOT
EVEN LITTLE

NOT REALLY
NO, BUT YOU
KNOW THAT'S
WHY SHE WANTS
TO USE PEGASUS
UNICORNS.

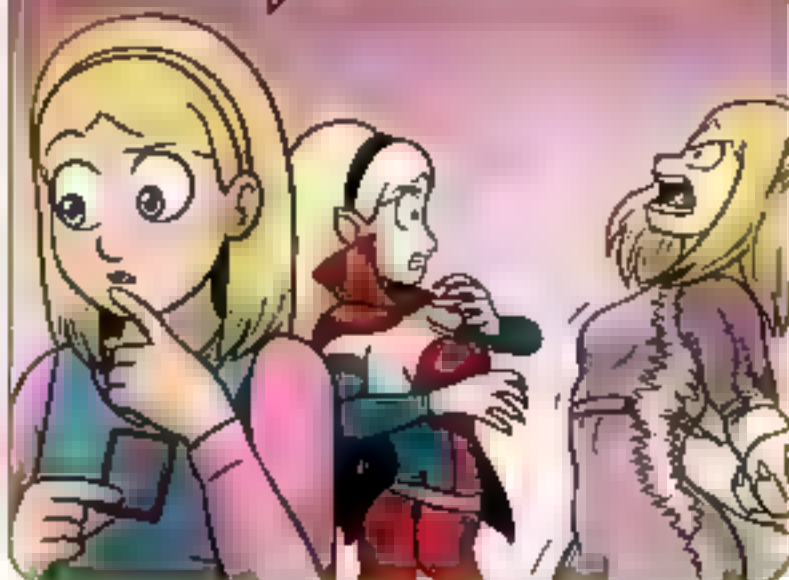
YOU KNOW THE ENERGY COST OF A LOT OF THE WEREWOLVES AND VAMPIRES ONLY NEED ONE OF THE ENERGY SPENT TO BE OF A SPECIFIC TYPE..



AND THE SPELLS THAT GO WITH THE VAMPIRES'S TYPE ARE TOTALLY EVIL, BUT I HAVE SOME GOOD TREE-BASED SPELLS THAT ALSO AREN'T TOO ENERGY SPECIFIC..



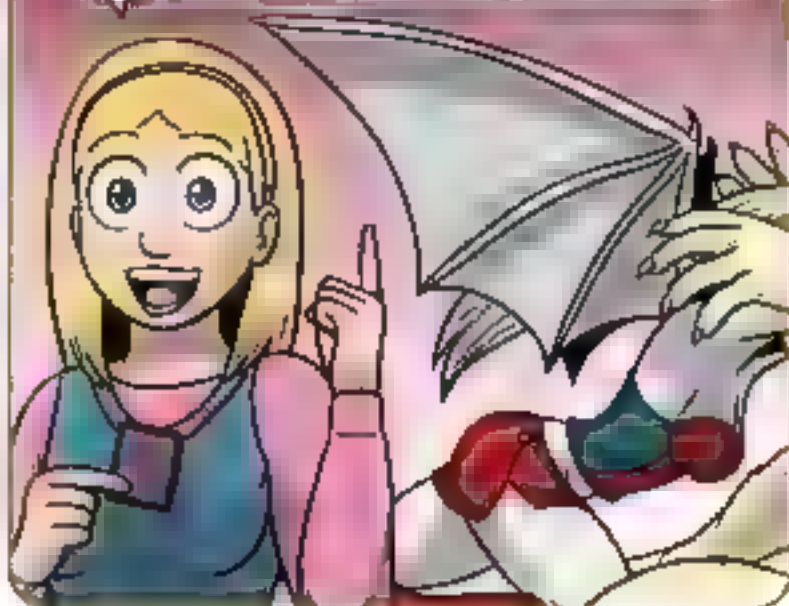
AND O.P IS GOOD ON HIS OWN IN THIS SETTING EVEN IF I DON'T HAVE ANY VAMPIRE MINIONS IN PLAY



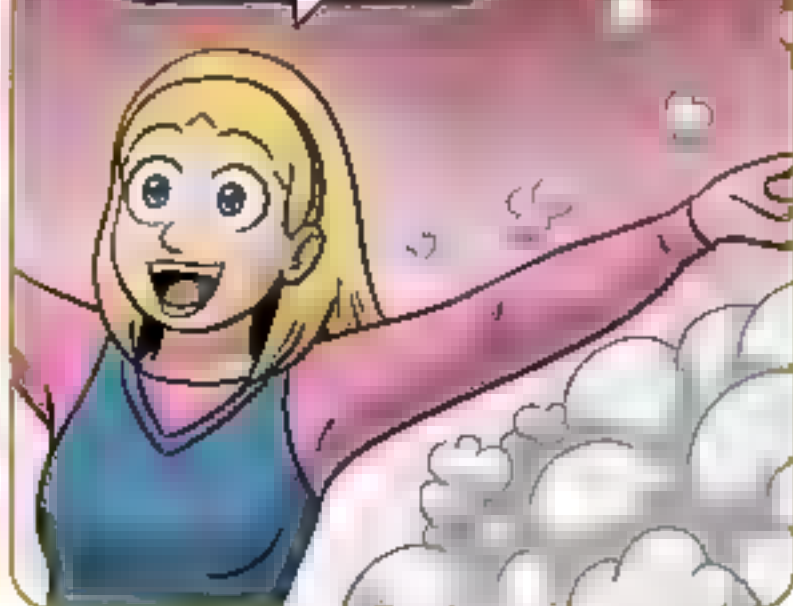
THE AVERAGE STORY IS LOW ON GOOD VAMPIRES, BUT WHAT IF THE WEREWOLVES WERE TRYING TO REFORM A GROUP OF THEM. AND WERE SUCCEEDING?

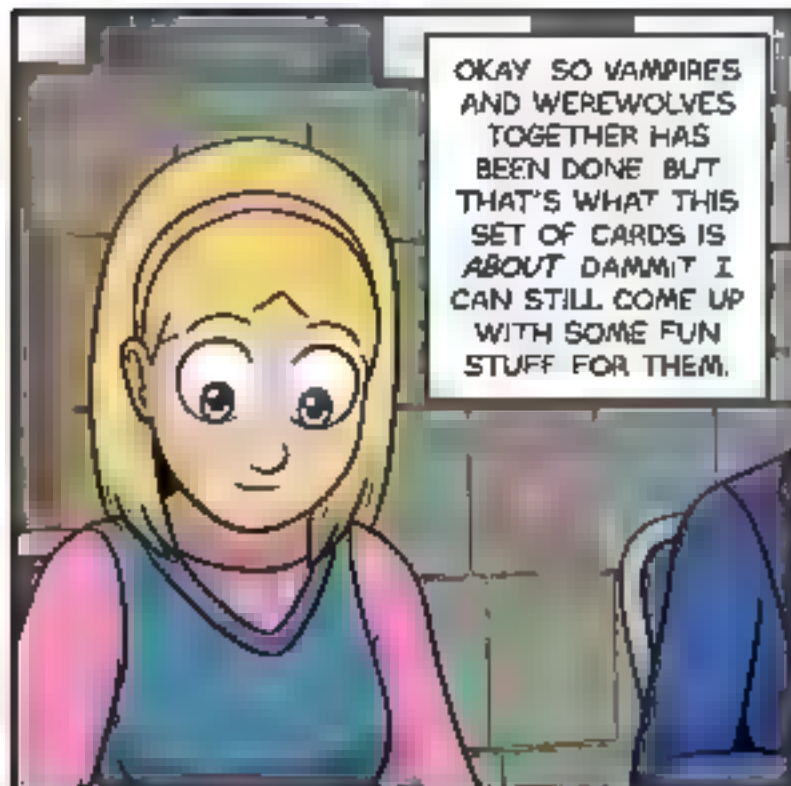


A VAMPIRE CLAN THAT WANTS TO USE THEIR UNNATURAL POWER TO DEFEND NATURE AND MAKE AMENDS FOR PAST DEEDS! THAT'S IT!

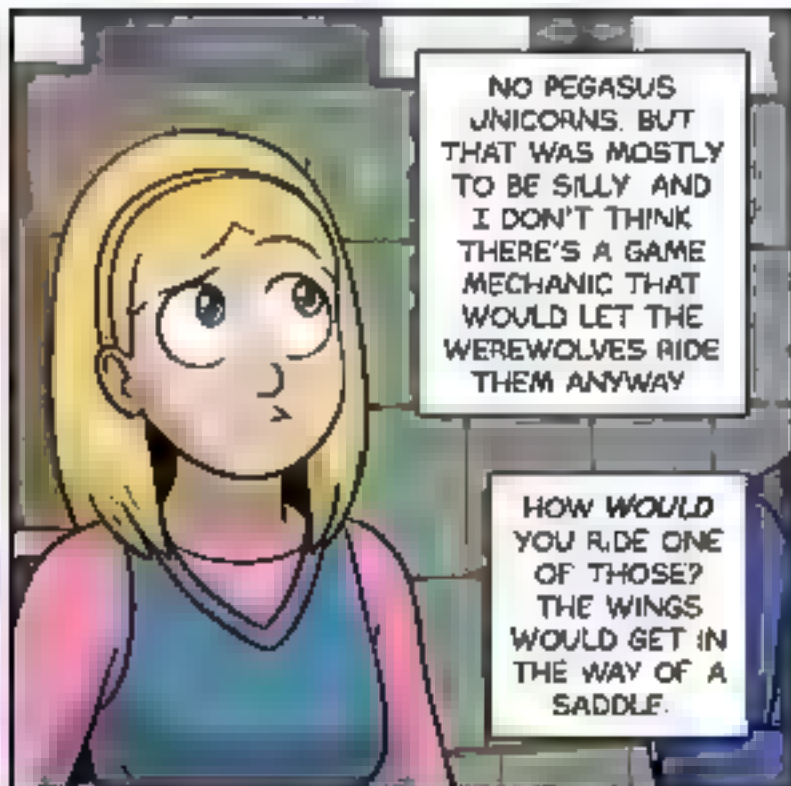


THE VAMPIRES AND WEREWOLVES WILL WORK TOGETHER!



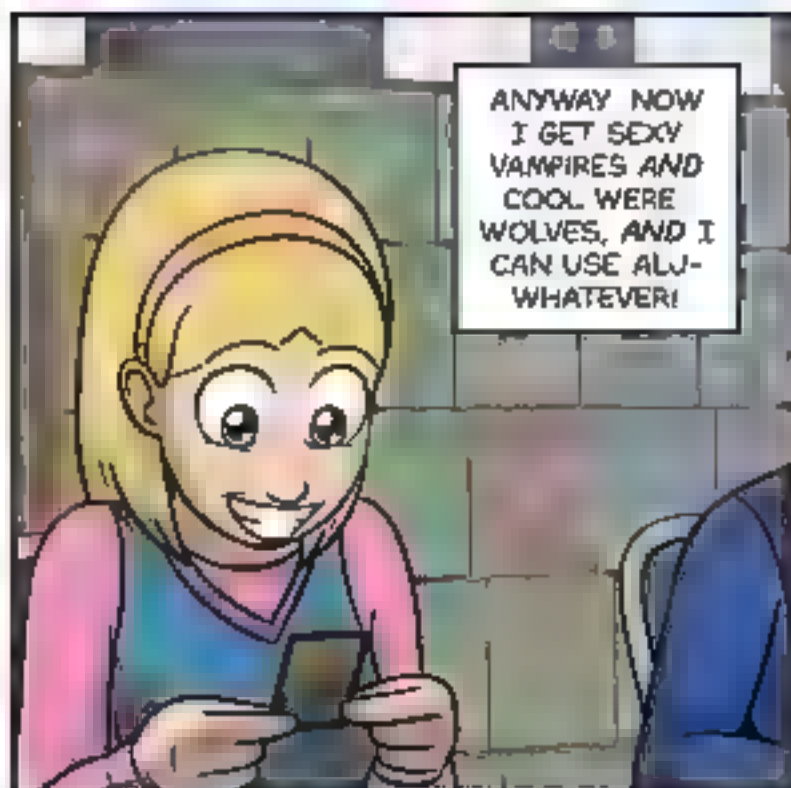


OKAY SO VAMPIRES
AND WEREWOLVES
TOGETHER HAS
BEEN DONE BUT
THAT'S WHAT THIS
SET OF CARDS IS
ABOUT DAMMIT I
CAN STILL COME UP
WITH SOME FUN
STUFF FOR THEM.

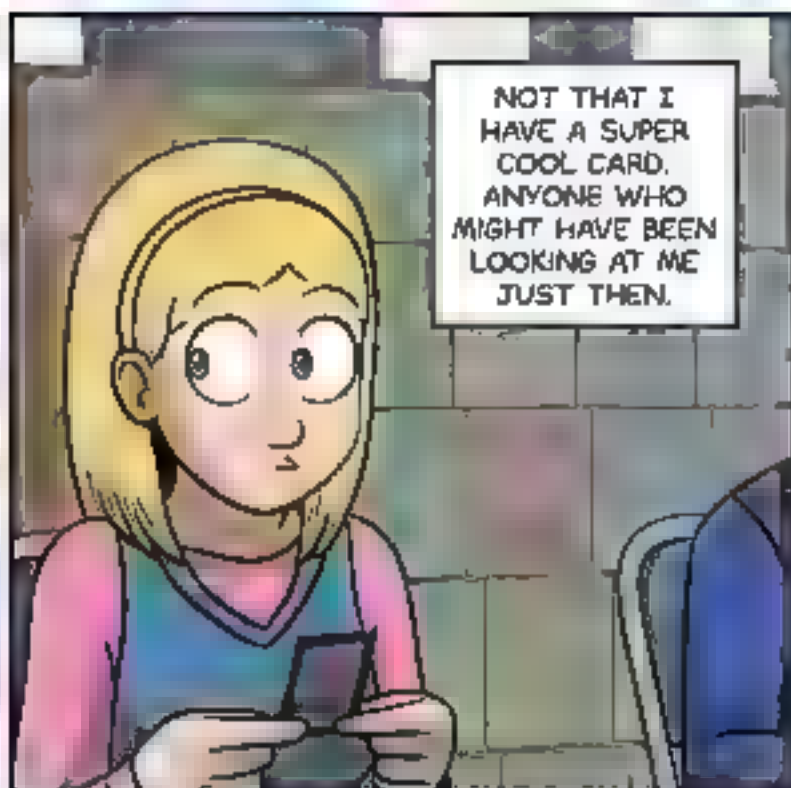


NO PEGASUS
UNICORNS. BUT
THAT WAS MOSTLY
TO BE SILLY AND
I DON'T THINK
THERE'S A GAME
MECHANIC THAT
WOULD LET THE
WEREWOLVES RIDE
THEM ANYWAY

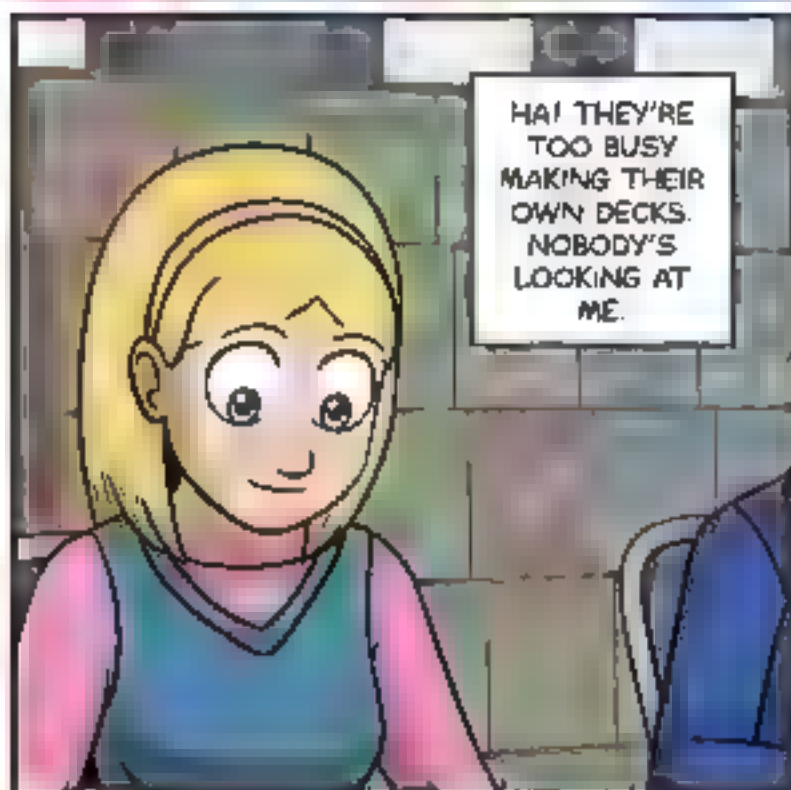
HOW WOULD
YOU RIDE ONE
OF THOSE?
THE WINGS
WOULD GET IN
THE WAY OF A
SADDLE.



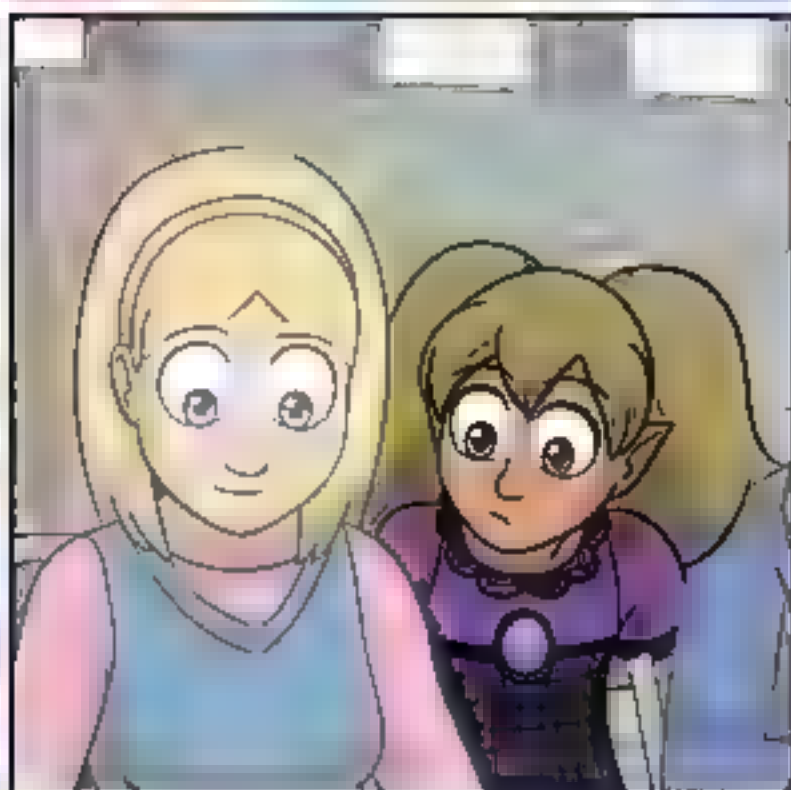
ANYWAY NOW
I GET SEXY
VAMPIRES AND
COOL WERE
WOLVES, AND I
CAN USE ALW-
HATEVER!

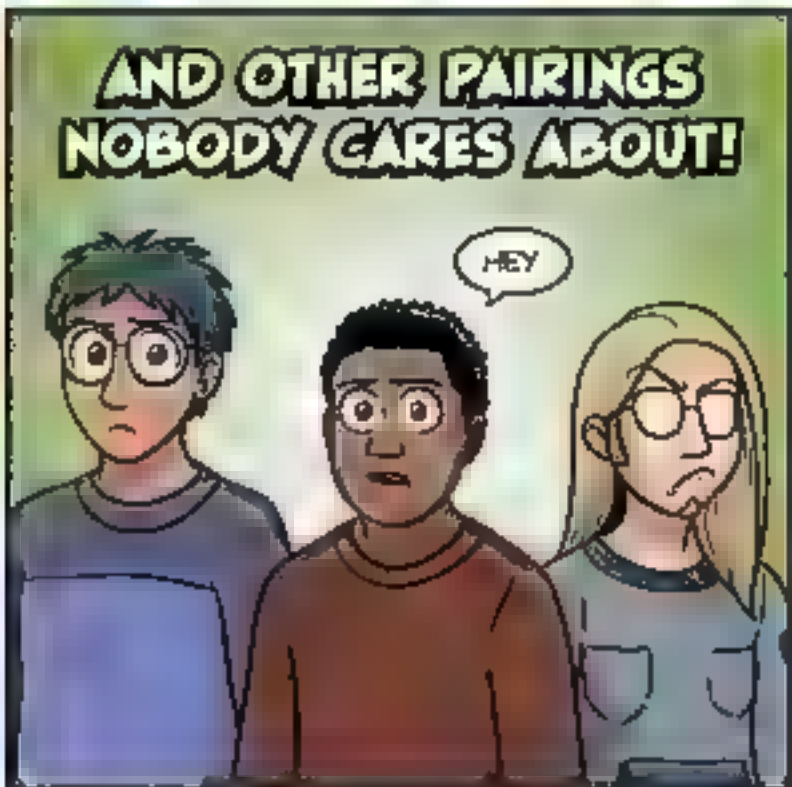
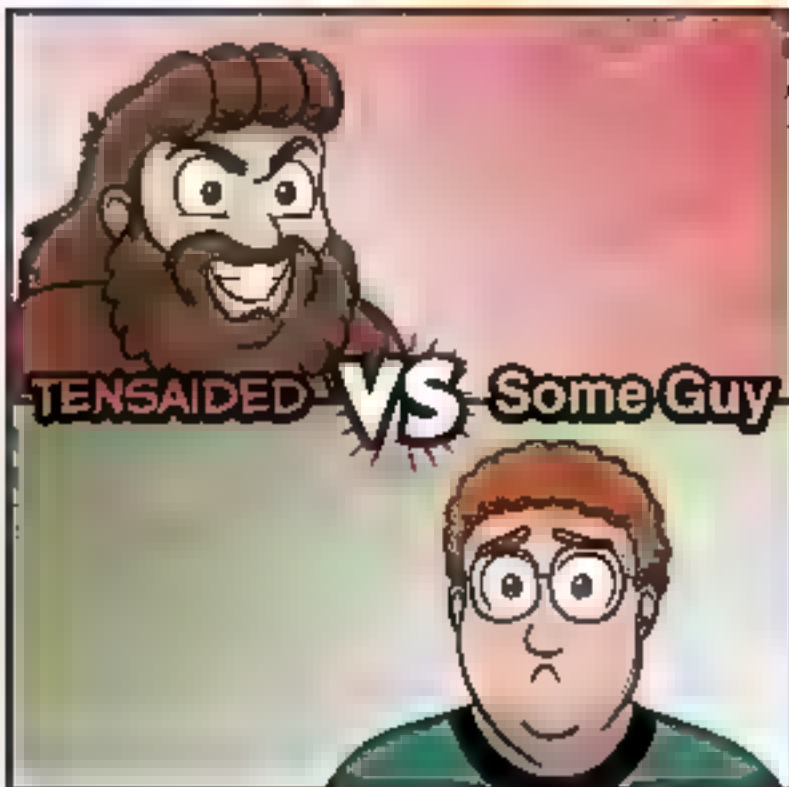
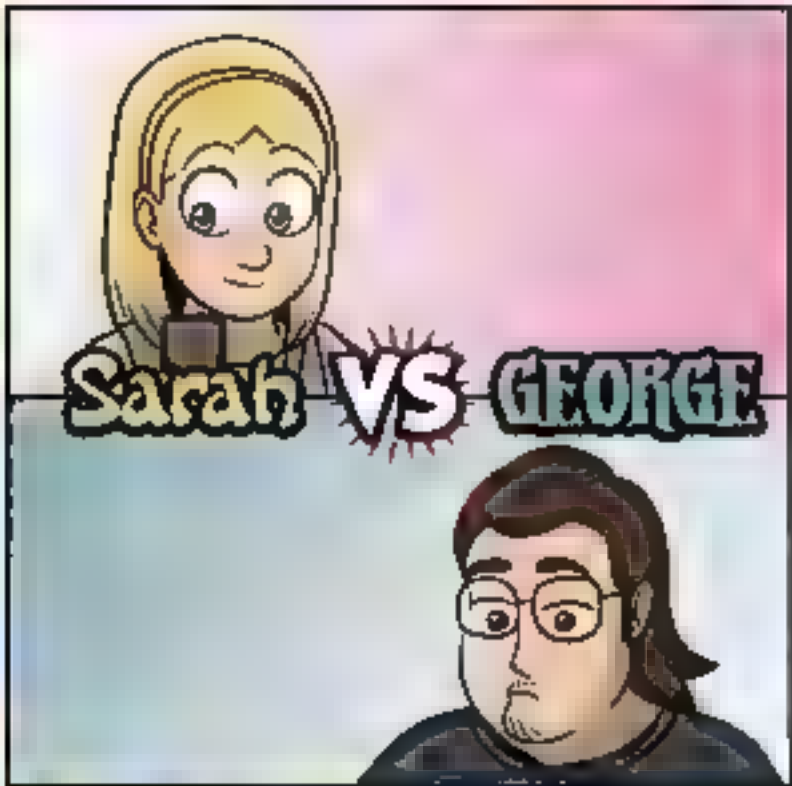
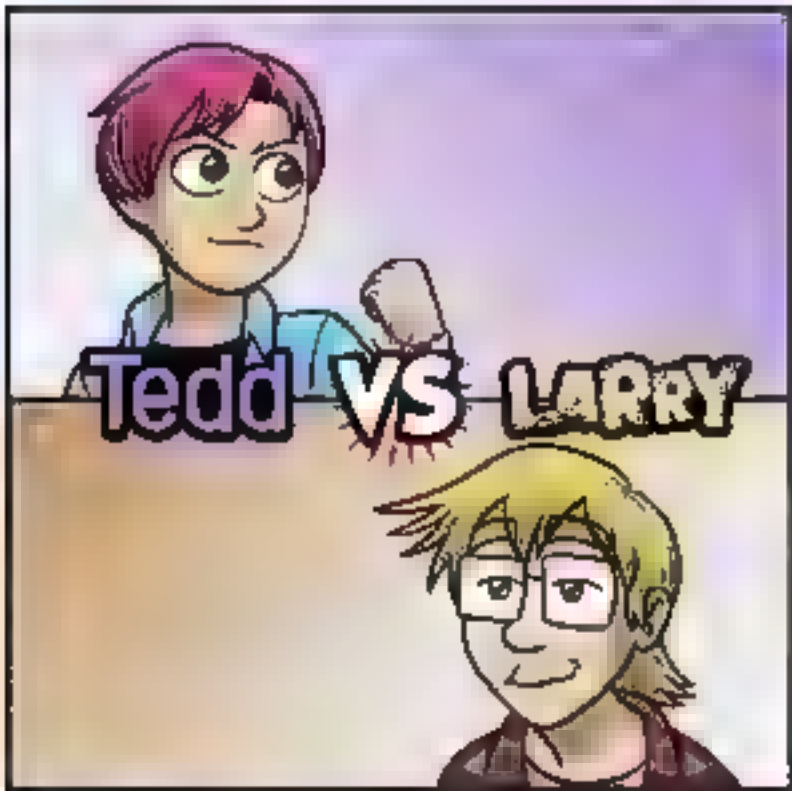
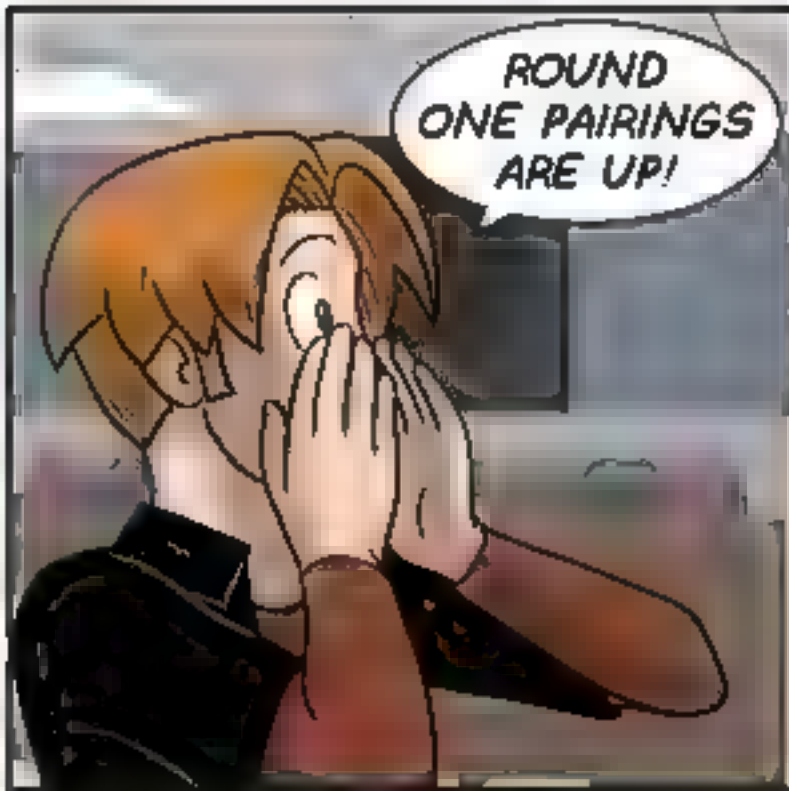


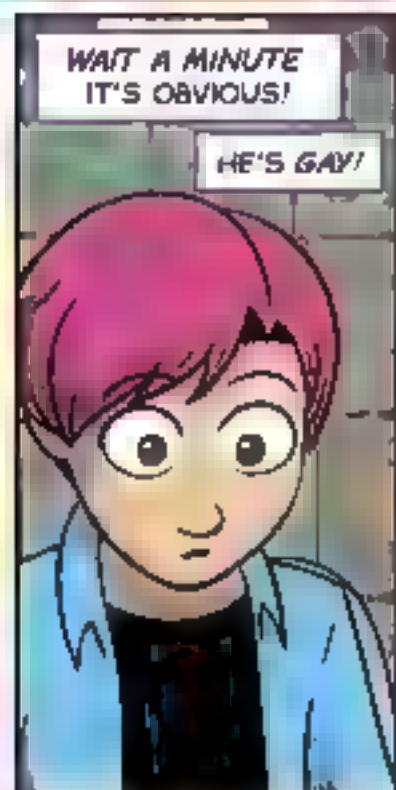
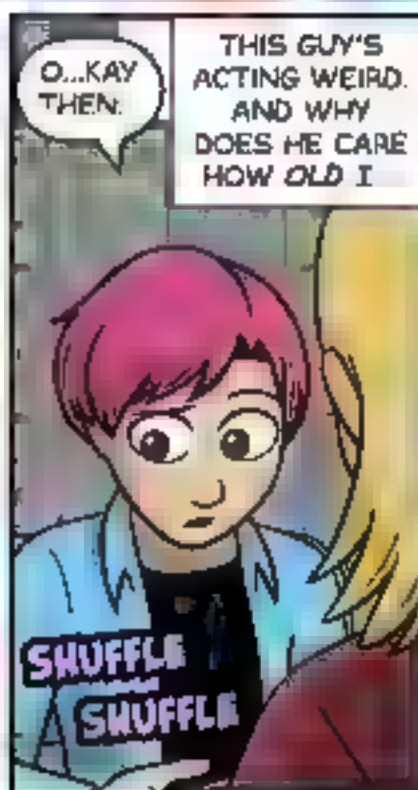
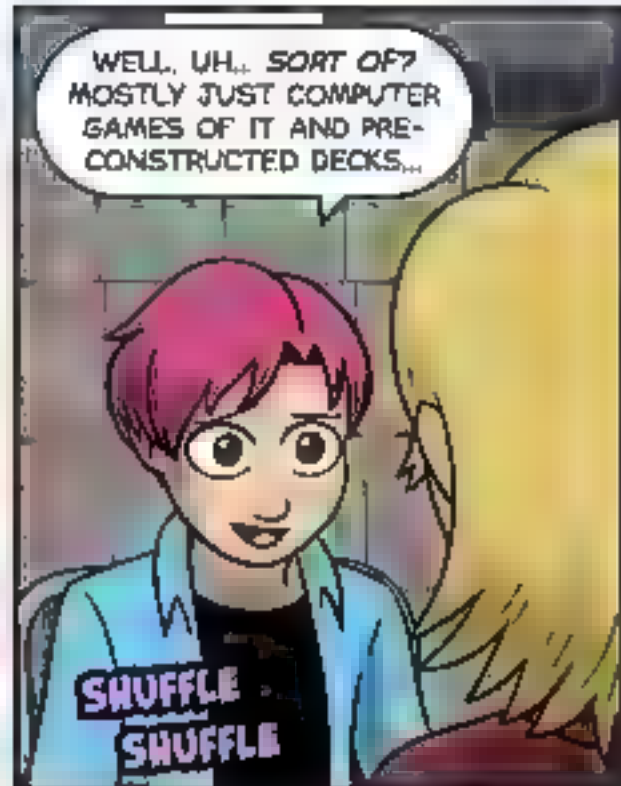
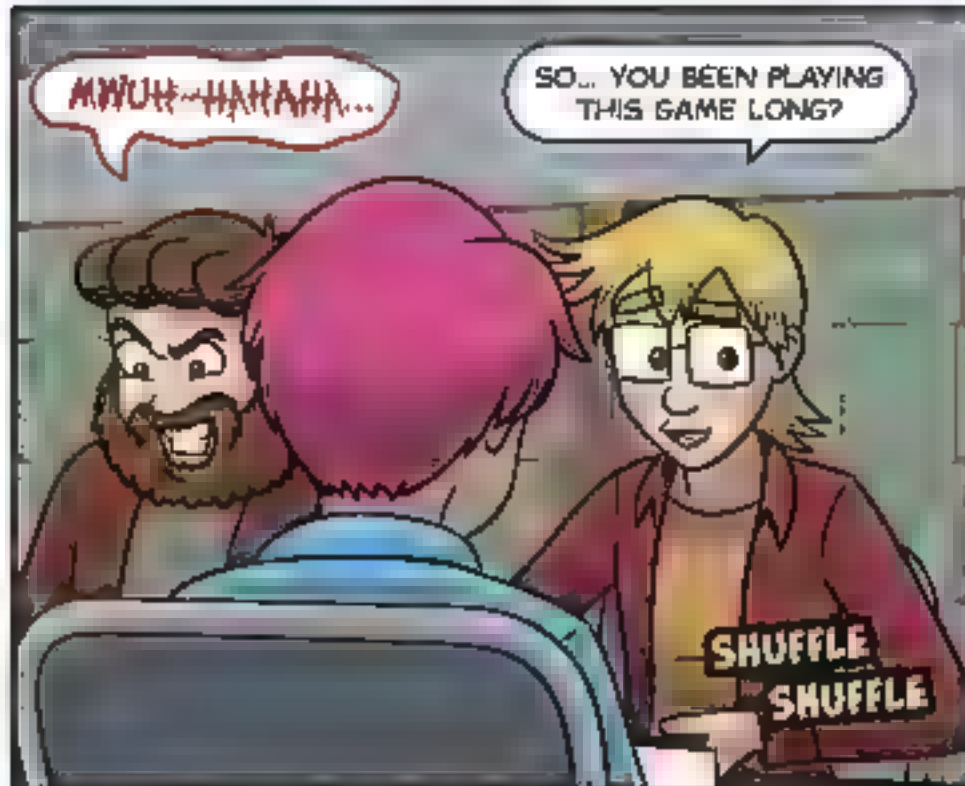
NOT THAT I
HAVE A SUPER
COOL CARD.
ANYONE WHO
MIGHT HAVE BEEN
LOOKING AT ME
JUST THEN.

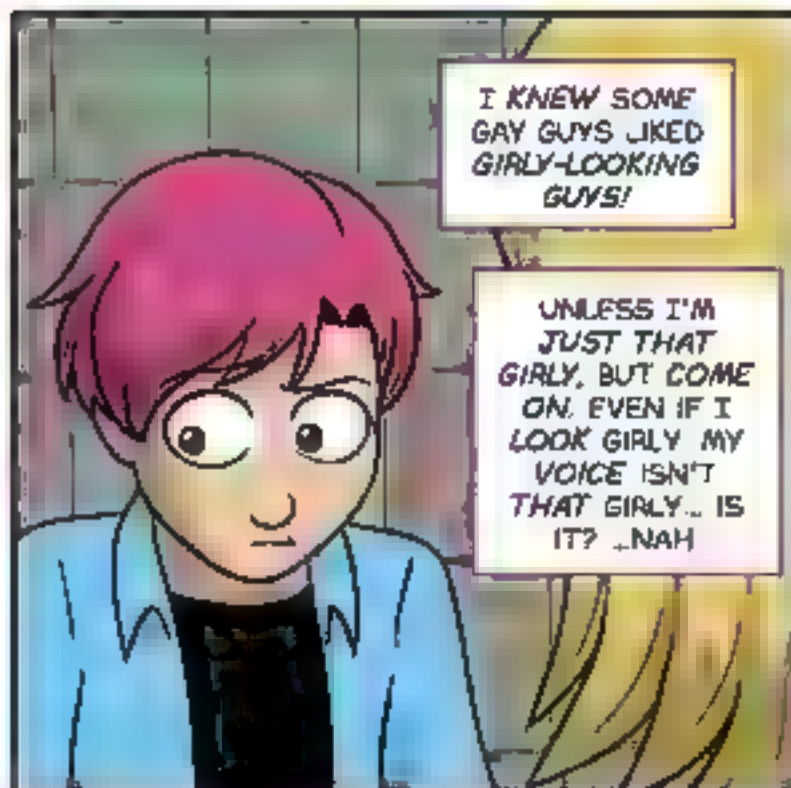


HAI THEY'RE
TOO BUSY
MAKING THEIR
OWN DECKS.
NOBODY'S
LOOKING AT
ME.



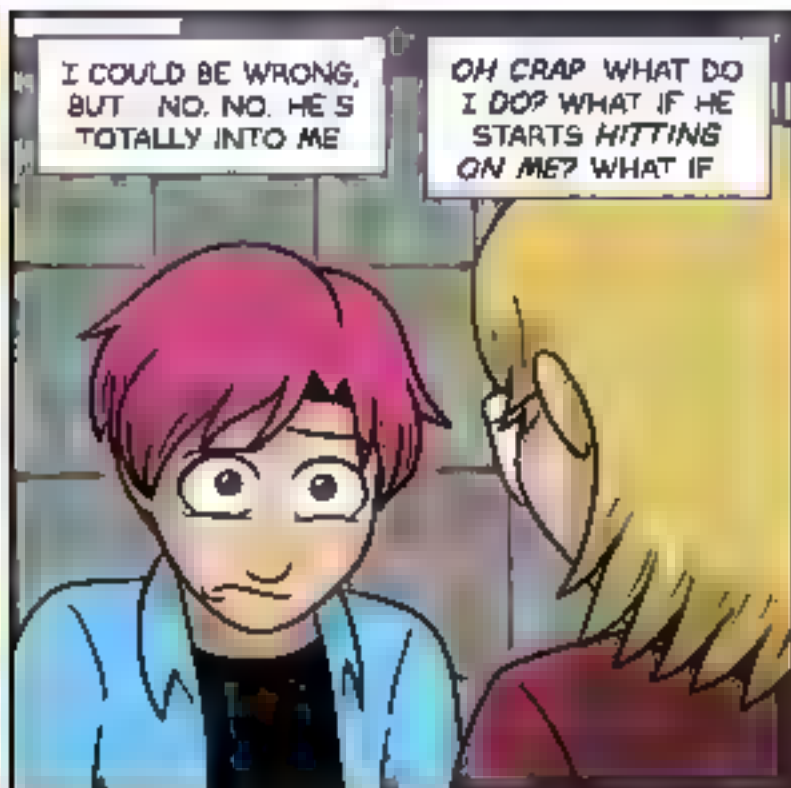






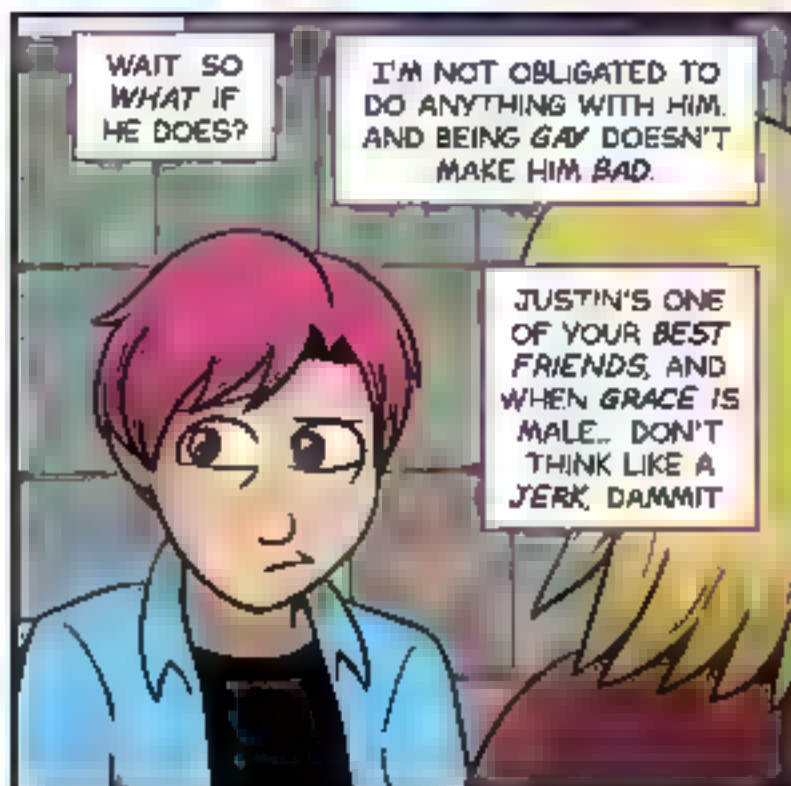
I KNEW SOME GAY GUYS JOKED GIRLY-LOOKING GUYS!

UNLESS I'M JUST THAT GIRLY. BUT COME ON. EVEN IF I LOOK GIRLY MY VOICE ISN'T THAT GIRLY... IS IT? ...NAH



I COULD BE WRONG, BUT NO. NO. HE'S TOTALLY INTO ME

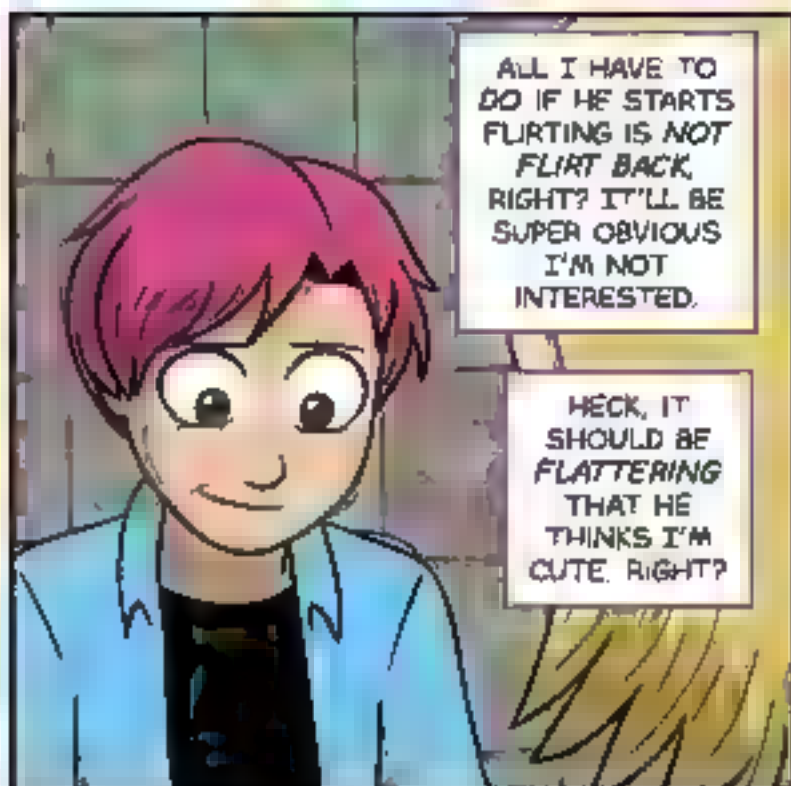
OH CRAP WHAT DO I DO? WHAT IF HE STARTS HITTING ON ME? WHAT IF



WAIT SO WHAT IF HE DOES?

I'M NOT OBLIGATED TO DO ANYTHING WITH HIM. AND BEING GAY DOESN'T MAKE HIM BAD.

JUSTIN'S ONE OF YOUR BEST FRIENDS, AND WHEN GRACE IS MALE... DON'T THINK LIKE A JERK, DAMMIT

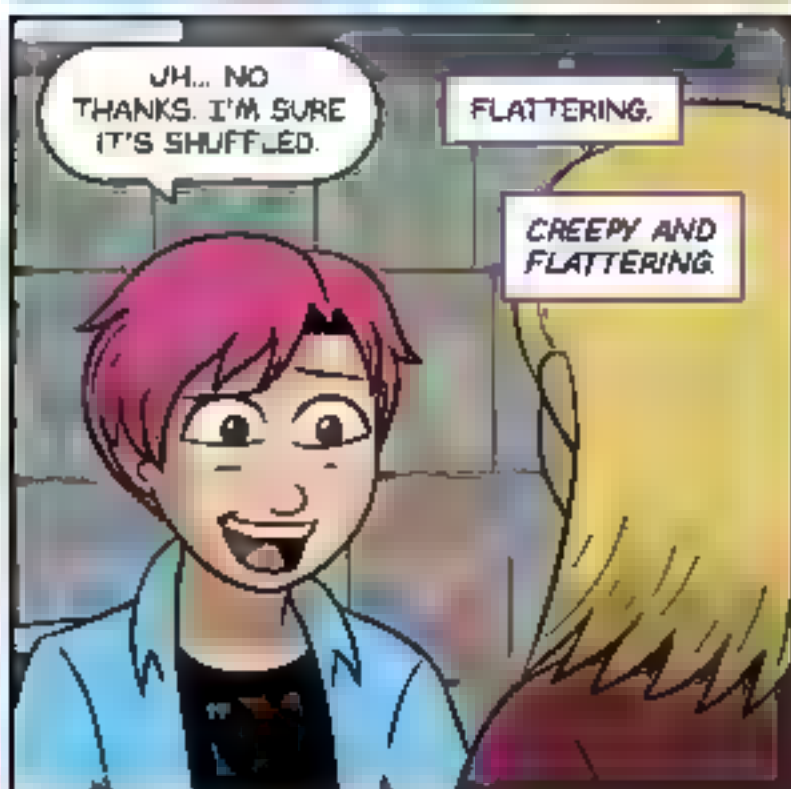


ALL I HAVE TO DO IF HE STARTS FLIRTING IS NOT FLIRT BACK, RIGHT? IT'LL BE SUPER OBVIOUS I'M NOT INTERESTED.

HECK, IT SHOULD BE FLATTERING THAT HE THINKS I'M CUTE, RIGHT?



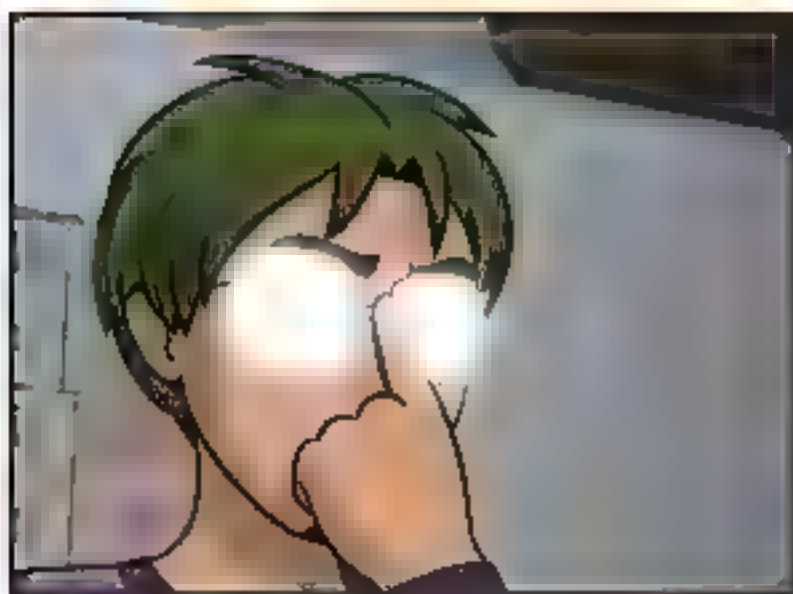
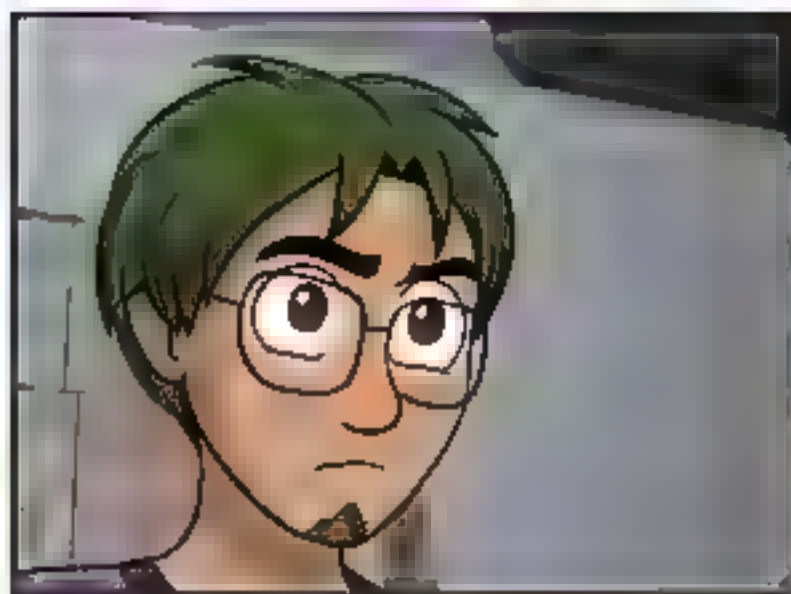
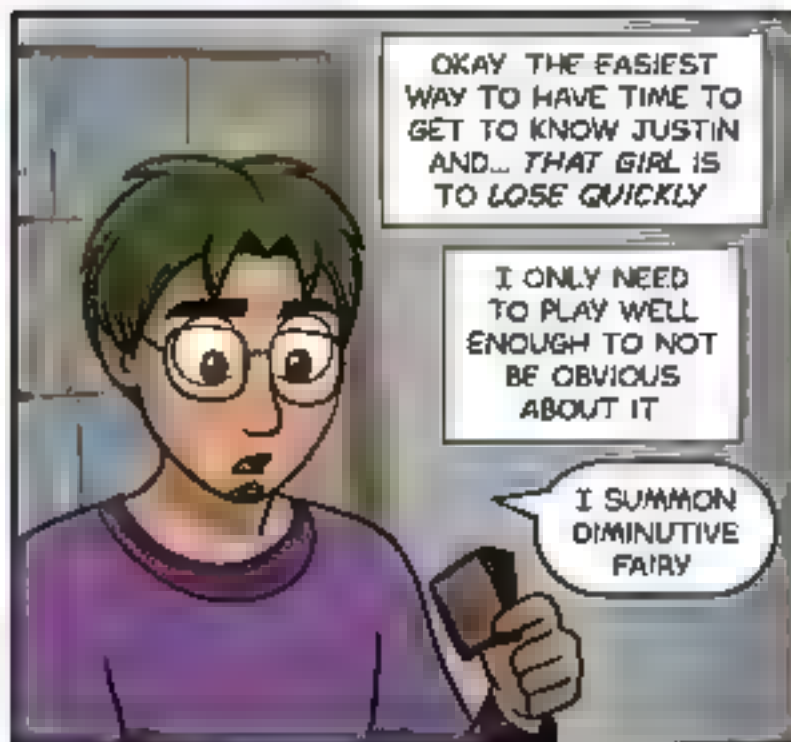
WOULD YOU LIKE TO CUT MY DECK?



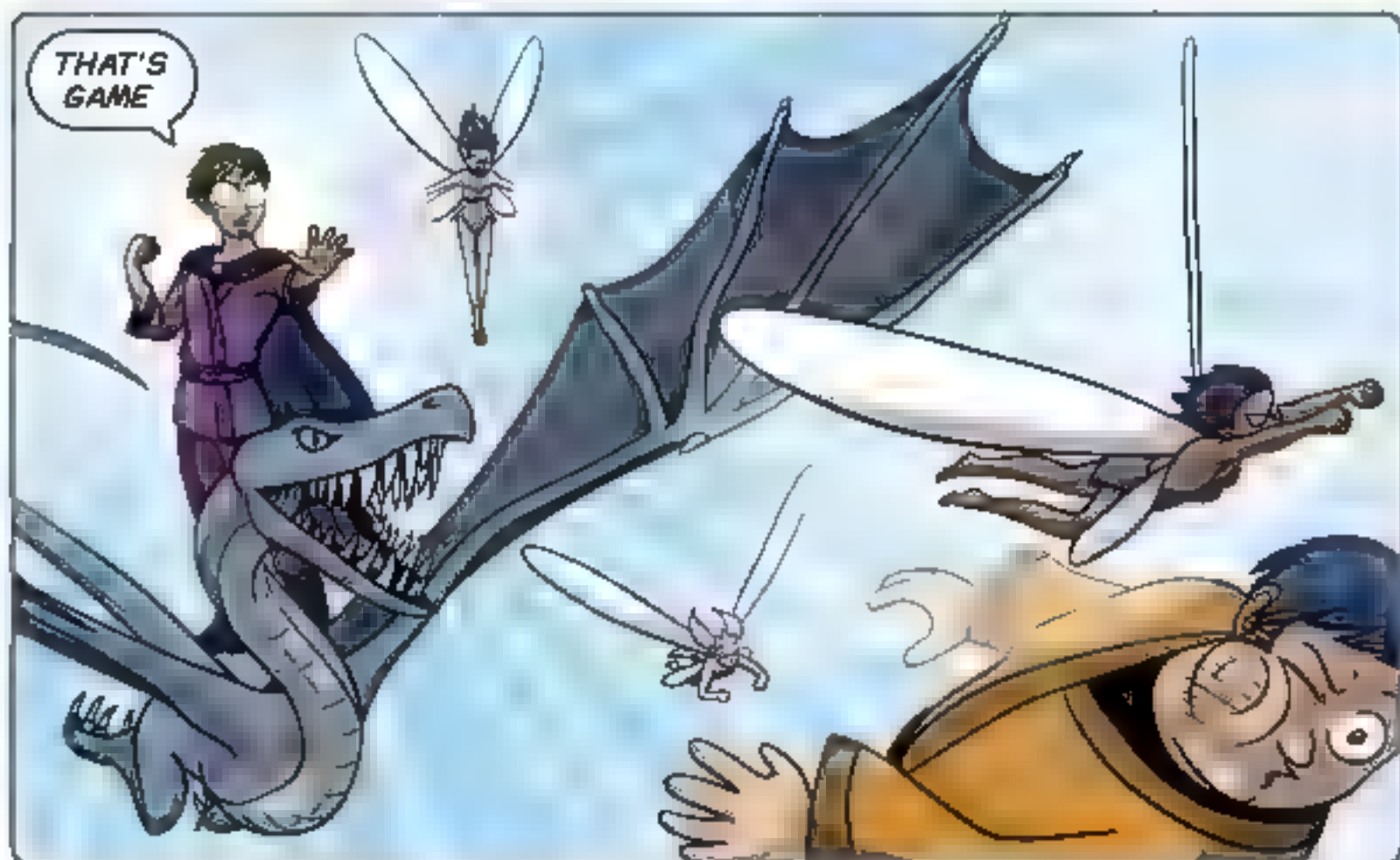
JH... NO THANKS. I'M SURE IT'S SHUFFLED.

FLATTERING.

CREEPY AND FLATTERING.



Many time consuming turns ater



And so, the noble wizard Sarah continued to defend the land



At her side were the mighty werewolves and the sexy vampires, whom she ruled by virtue of being the mightiest and sex est of all



Her foe, the evil George, continued his bid to



This Thing

Uh-Oh Attack / Really? Health

Hella strong *

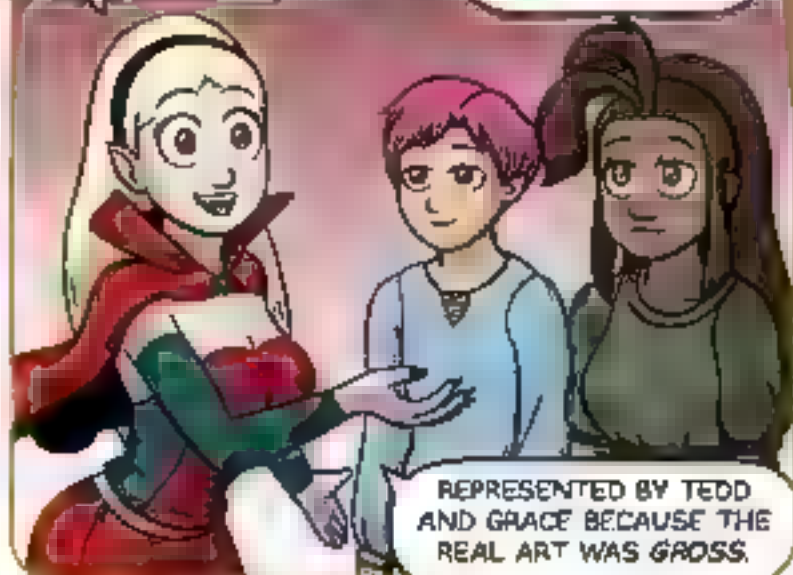
* Actual description may differ. Probably a dragon.

WITH O.P. ALUDRAKRALA IN YOUR DECK YOU COULD WIN THE WHOLE TOURNAMENT! SHOW WHAT S-HIS-NAME BEARDED VIDEO STORE GUY WHO'S BOSS!



IT'D JUST BE ONE CARD OUT OF FORTY..

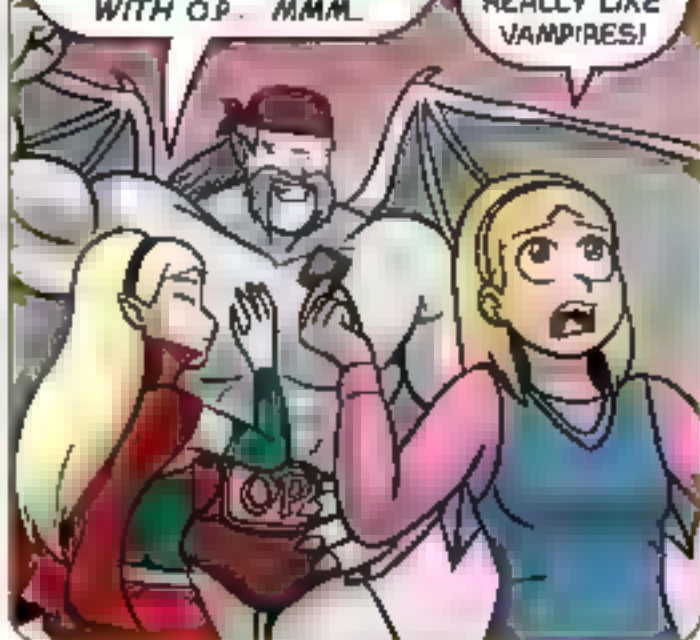
SO? YOU GOT A BUNCH OF VAMPIRES AND ALL WITH ABILITIES THAT COMPLIMENT OR BOOST EACH OTHER!



HECK YOU EVEN GOT A COUPLE THRALLS THAT CAN BE SACRIFICED TO HEAL VAMPIRES!

REPRESENTED BY TEDD AND GRACE BECAUSE THE REAL ART WAS GROSS.

YOU DON'T EVEN NEED O.P. TO MAKE A GOOD VAMPIRE DECK BUT WITH O.P. MMM



BUT I DON'T EVEN REALLY LIKE VAMPIRES!

I MIGHT JUST REPRESENT A PART OF YOUR MIND BUT I STILL HAVE FEELINGS, YOU KNOW



BUT I DON'T! I JUST LIKE THE STUPID SEXY STORIES PEOPLE WRITE ABOUT THEM! THEY'RE MOSTLY JUST UNDEAD BAD GUY JERKS!

WELL, MAKE UP A SEXY VAMPIRE STORY WHERE THEY'RE GOOD



GOOD GUYS WHO ENTHRALL PEOPLE AND DRINK THEIR BLOOD?

..MAYBE THE THRALLS WERE JERKS?



ALL THE SPELLS I HAVE FOR THEIR ENERGY TYPES ARE TOTALLY EVIL, TOO! "DEATH" THIS, "PLAGUE" THAT.. I DON'T WANT TO PLAY AS THESE GUYS!

SO DON'T PLAY "AS" THEM. STOP THINKING ABOUT THE DECKS STORY AND FOCUS ON WINNING.



And so, the land was
burned to a crisp.

YOU WOULD'VE
WON THAT GAME
IF YOU'D PLAYED
SMARTER

OH
REALLY

YA REALLY YOUR DECK
IS PRETTY GOOD. BUT YOU'RE
PLAYING TOO DEFENSIVELY
YOU NEED TO ATTACK MORE

I... WHAT?

EARLY IN THE GAME WHEN YOU
HAD TWO MONSTERS AND I HAD
ONE? YOU SHOULD'VE ATTACKED.

EITHER YOU
WOULD'VE HIT ME
WITH BOTH. OR
YOU'D HAVE HIT ME
WITH ONE AND WE
EACH WOULD'VE
LOST A MONSTER.

EITHER
WAY YOU'D
HAVE COME
OUT AHEAD

THAT THING COST ME SEVEN ENERGY TO
SUMMON AND WAS SITTING IN MY HAND SINCE
TURN ONE YOU COULD'VE BEATEN ME WELL
BEFORE I DREW ENOUGH ENERGY TO PLAY IT

OH. UM. THANK YOU.
I'LL KEEP THAT IN MIND

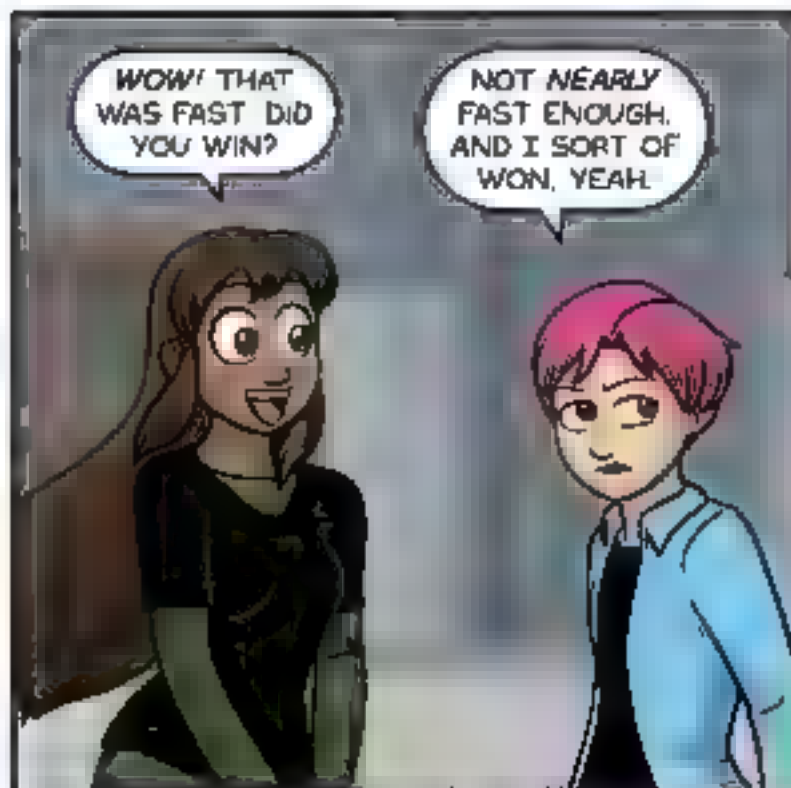
GOOD. NOW
SHUFFLE YOUR DECK
THESE ROUNDS ARE
BEST TWO OUT OF
THREE YOU KNOW

UH. RIGHT...
DO YOU HAVE ANY
OTHER ADVICE?

SURE. JUST DON'T
EXPECT ANY DURING
A GAME OR DURING
ROUNDS AGAINST
OTHER PEOPLE

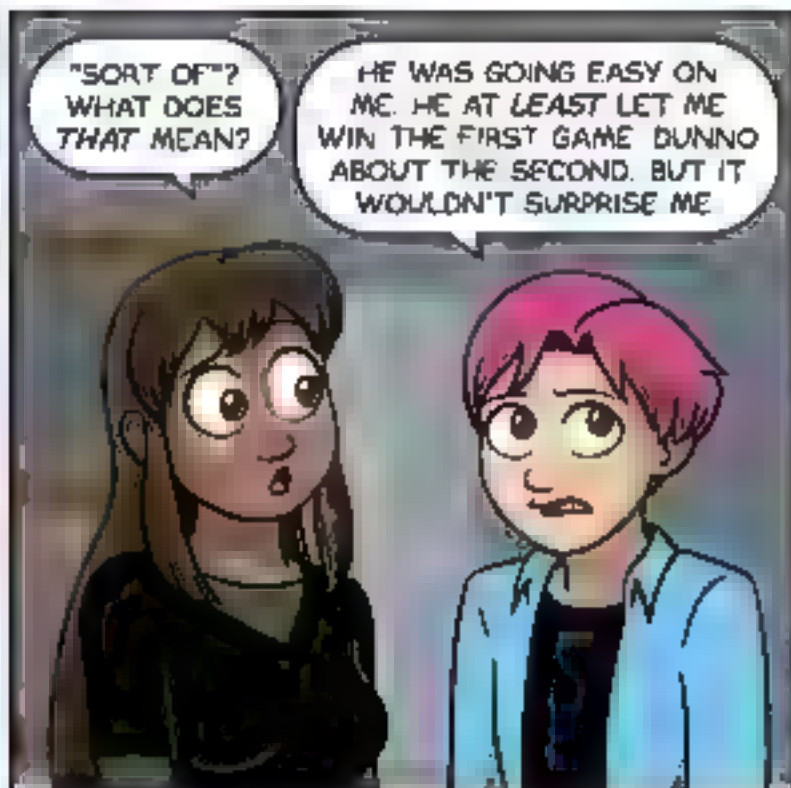
NOT A
PROBLEM!
THANK YOU.

WHAT-
EVS.



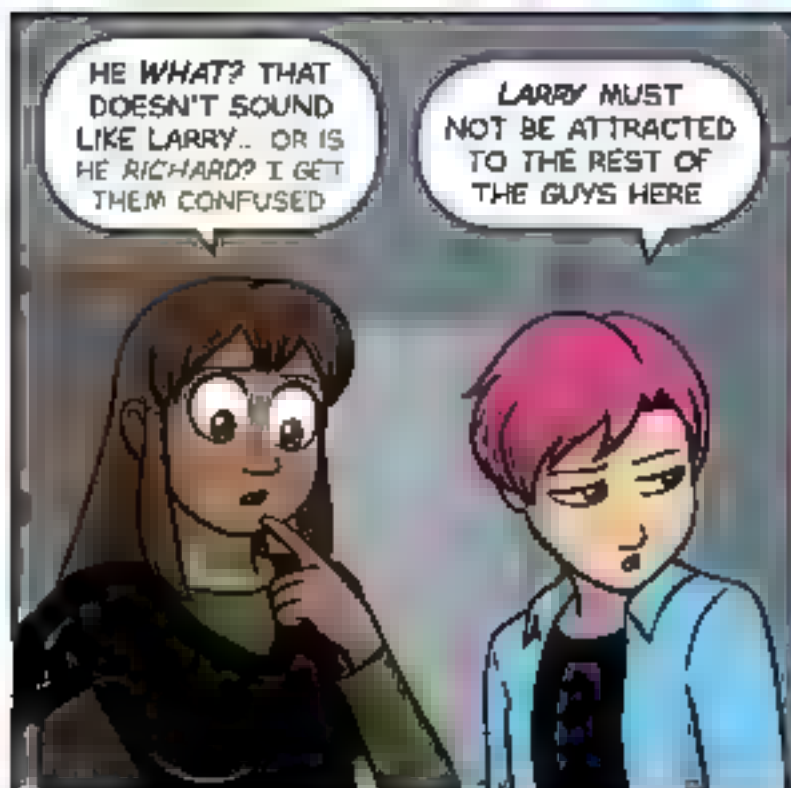
WOW! THAT WAS FAST DID YOU WIN?

NOT NEARLY FAST ENOUGH. AND I SORT OF WON, YEAH.



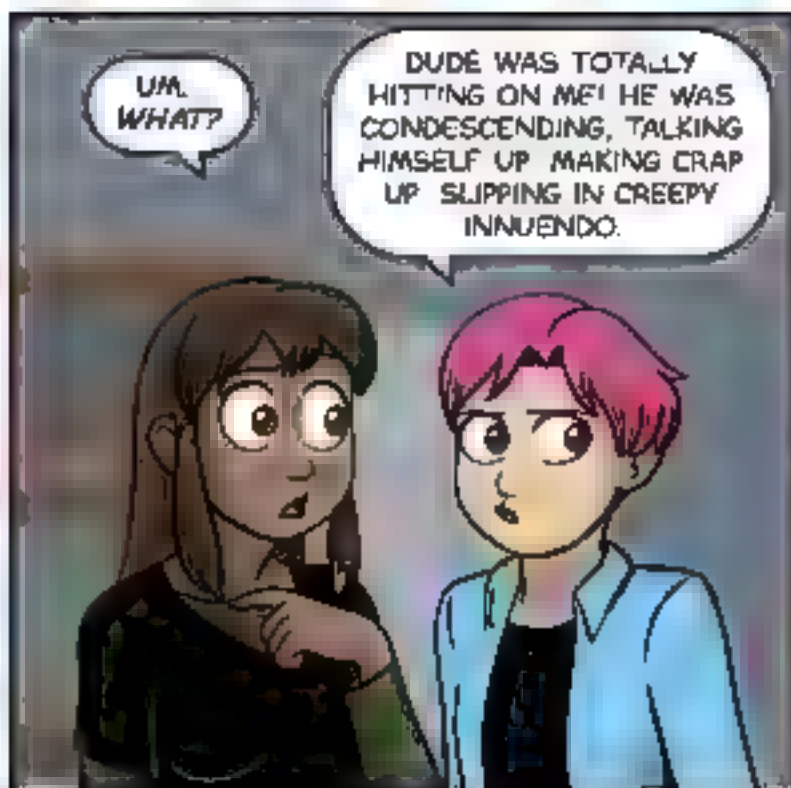
"SORT OF"? WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

HE WAS GOING EASY ON ME. HE AT LEAST LET ME WIN THE FIRST GAME DUNNO ABOUT THE SECOND. BUT IT WOULDN'T SURPRISE ME



HE WHAT? THAT DOESN'T SOUND LIKE LARRY.. OR IS HE RICHARD? I GET THEM CONFUSED

LARRY MUST NOT BE ATTRACTED TO THE REST OF THE GUYS HERE



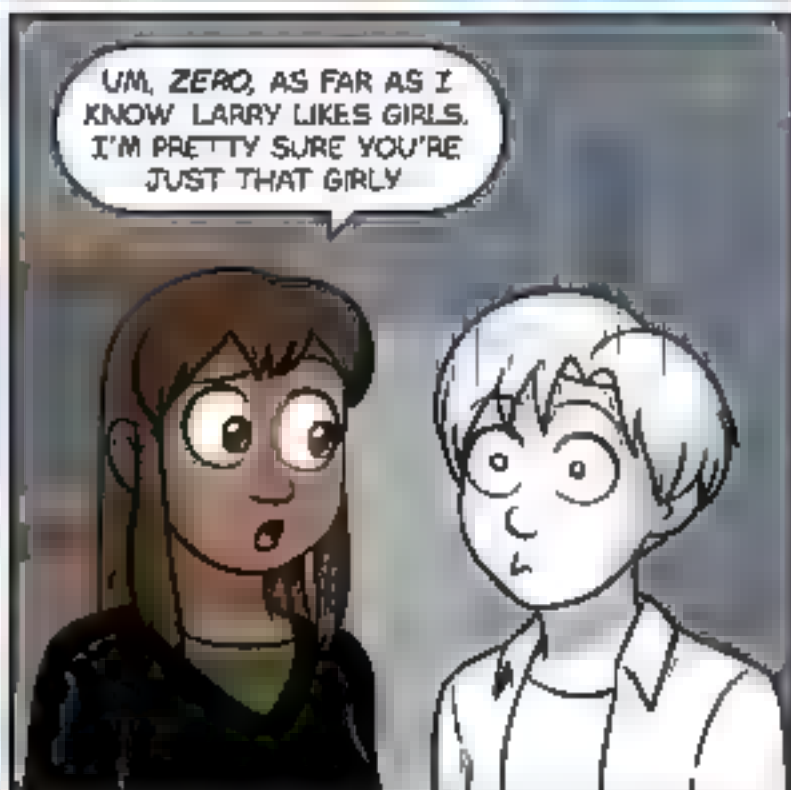
UM. WHAT?

DUDE WAS TOTALLY HITTING ON ME! HE WAS CONDESCENDING, TALKING HIMSELF UP MAKING CRAP UP SLIPPING IN CREEPY INNUENDO.



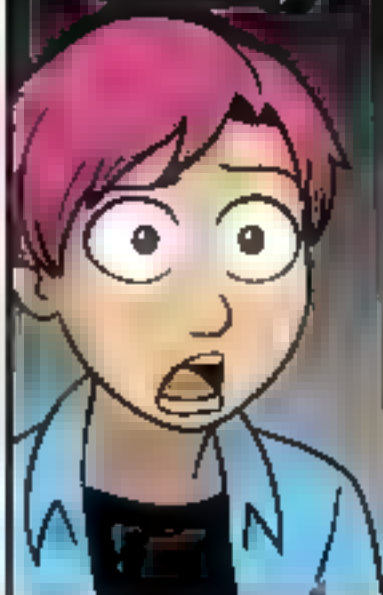
NOW THAT SOUNDS LIKE LARRY AND A BUNCH OF OTHER GUYS WHO HANG OUT HERE. AND GO TO MY SCHOOL AND.

HOW MANY RUDE GAY GUYS WHO CAN'T TAKE A HINT HANG OUT HERE?!



UM, ZERO, AS FAR AS I KNOW LARRY LIKES GIRLS. I'M PRETTY SURE YOU'RE JUST THAT GIRLY

WHAT? BUT... SITTING
RIGHT ACROSS... MY
VOICE... FLATNESS.
WHAT?!



YOUR VOICE IS PRETTY
ANDROGYNOUS. AND
NOT EVERY WOMAN
HAS BIG, NOTICEABLE
BREASTS.



A DISPROPORTIONATE
NUMBER AROUND HERE
SEEM TO HAVE THEM FOR
SOME REASON BUT

OKAY... I... GUESS
THAT'S POSSIBLE, BUT...
BUT THAT DOESN'T
MAKE HITTING ON ME
LIKE THAT OKAY!



OF COURSE IT
DOESN'T IT'S
TO BE EXPECTED.
THOUGH.



IT IS?
BUT...

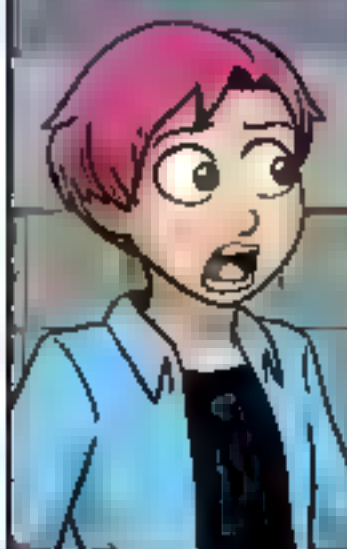
I JUST SAID I KNOW A BUNCH
OF GUYS WHO TREAT ME LIKE THAT
SARAH'S DEALT WITH GUYS LIKE
THAT, TOO. AND ELLEN. AND...



WELL, I FIGURE EVERY GIRL HAS
TO DEAL WITH STUFF LIKE THAT



BUT... THAT'S
NOT OKAY!
THAT SUCKS!



YEP



-



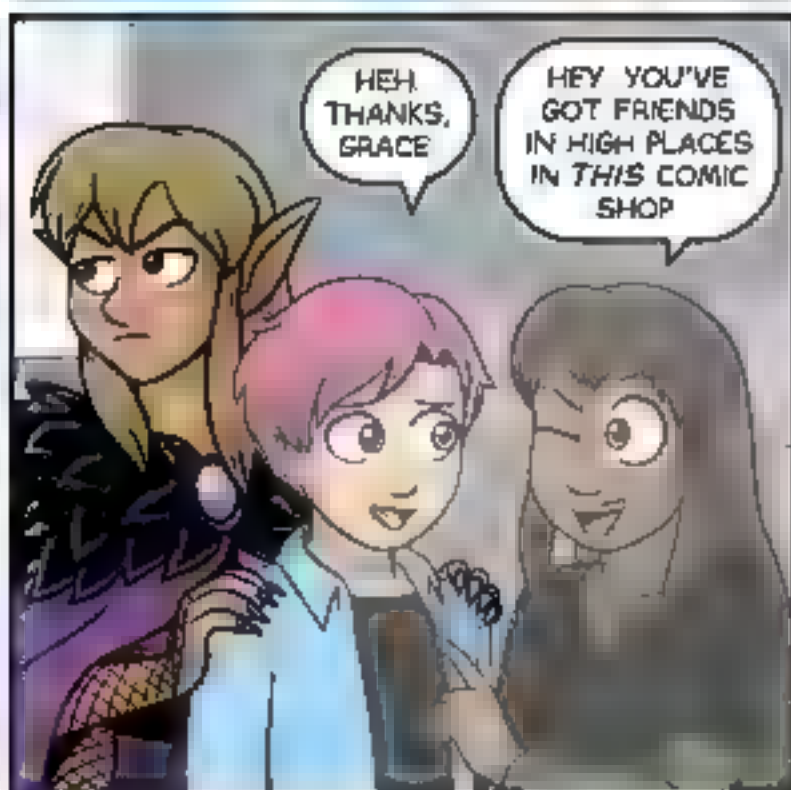
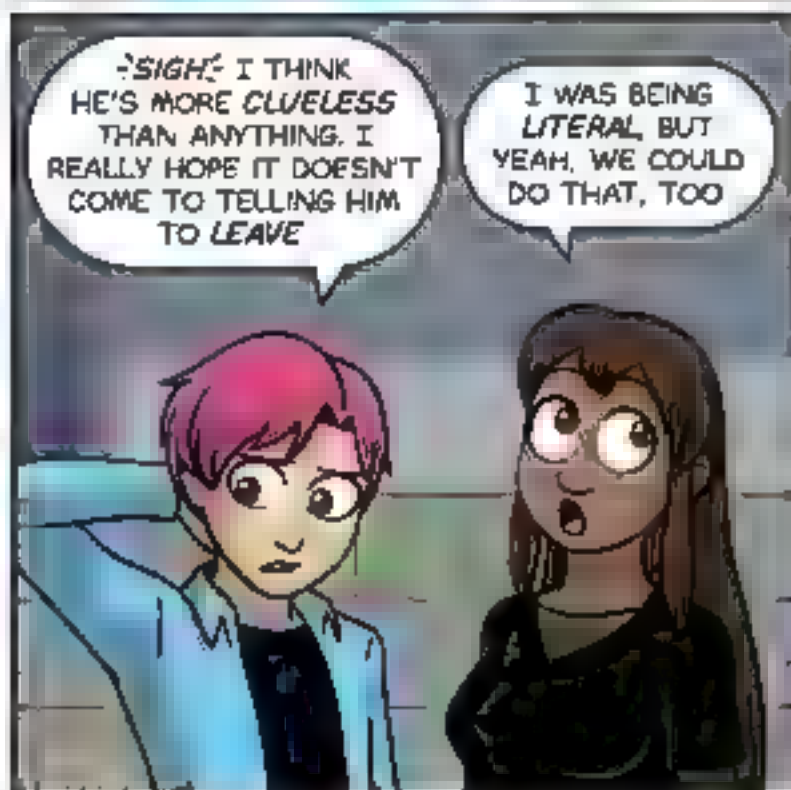
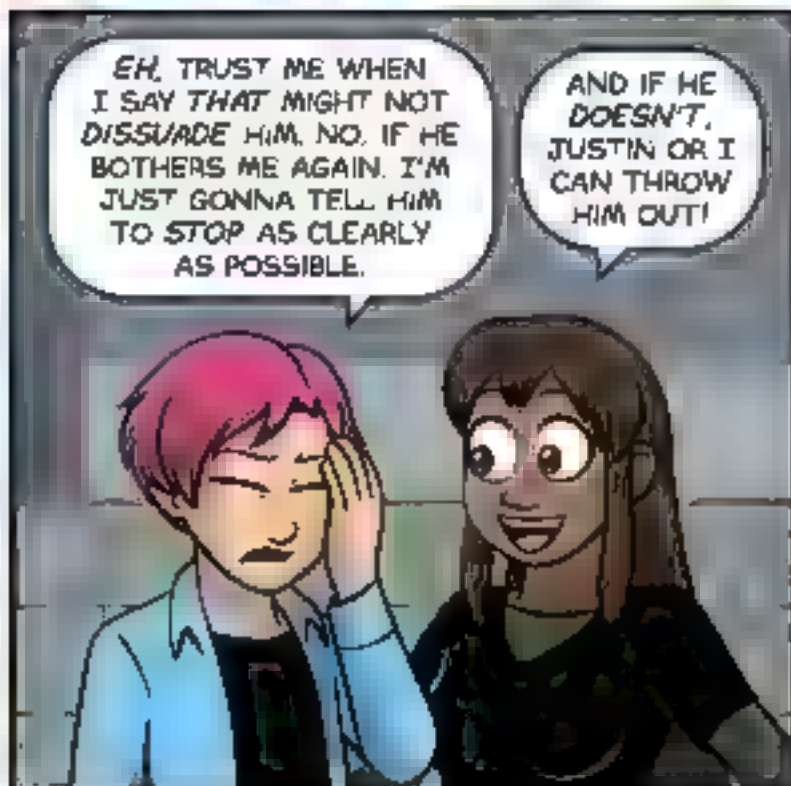
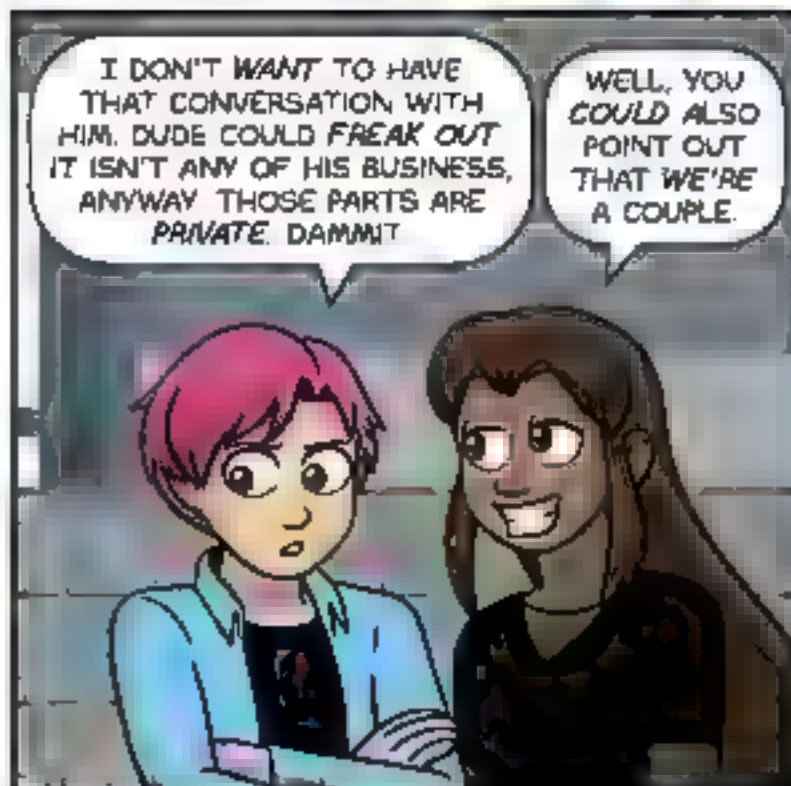
I'M ADDING "BRING
BACK MAGIC HAMMERS
FOR ALL WOMEN AGAIN"
TO MY TO-DO LIST

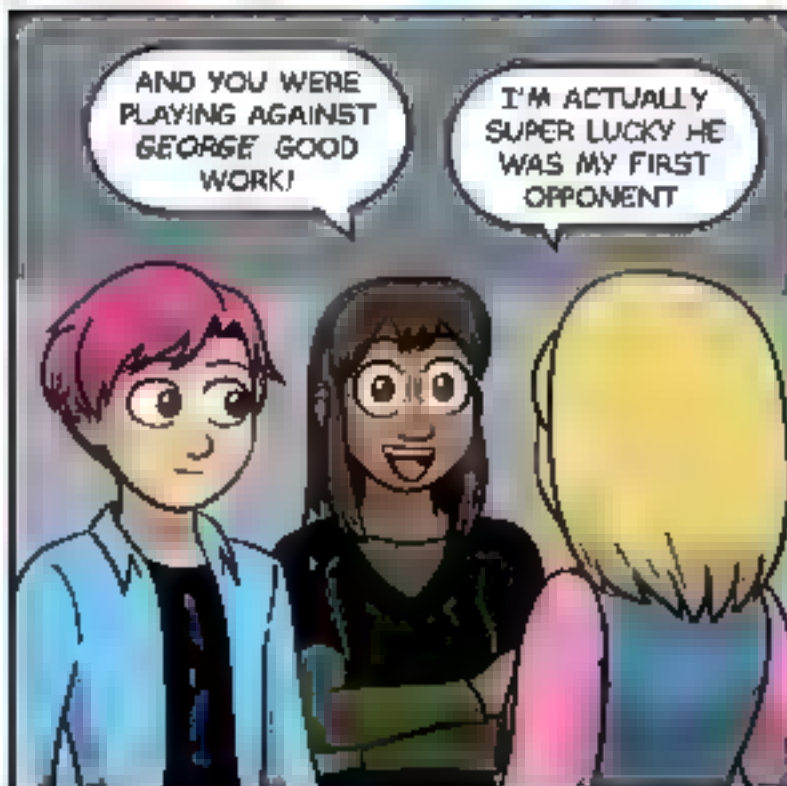
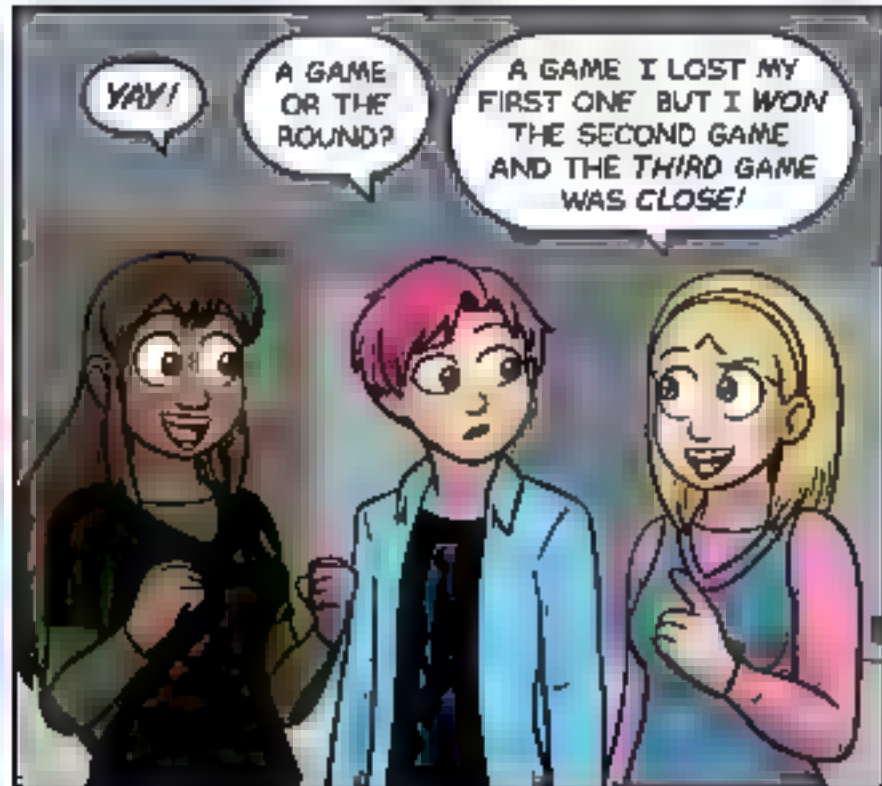
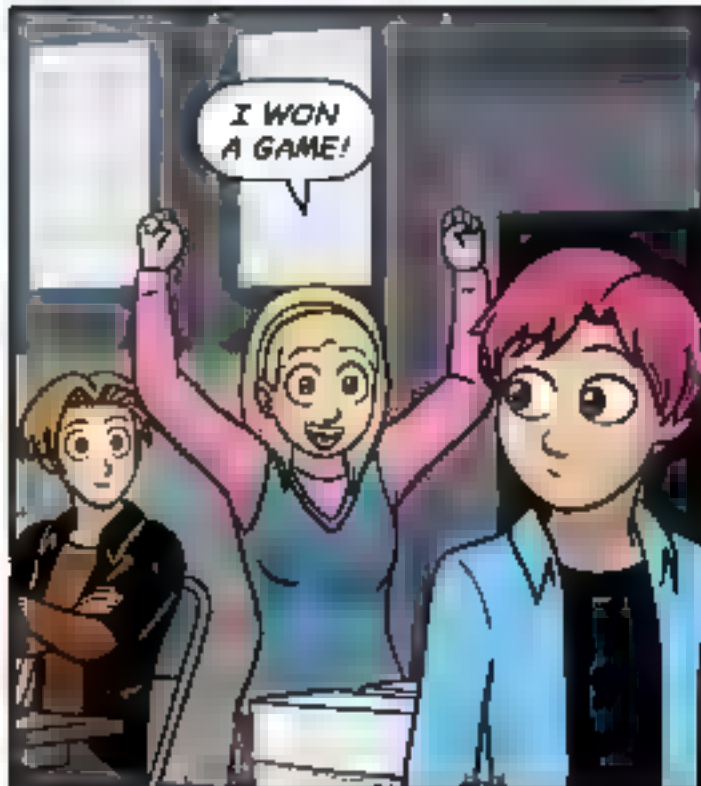


I'M PRETTY
SURE WE'D NEED
AN IMMORTAL
FOR THAT

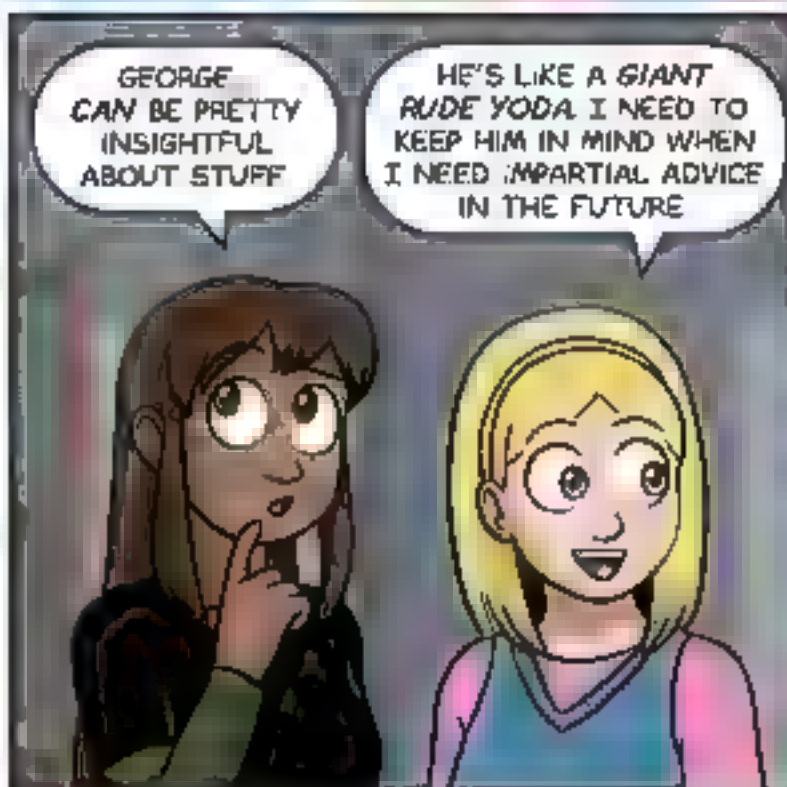


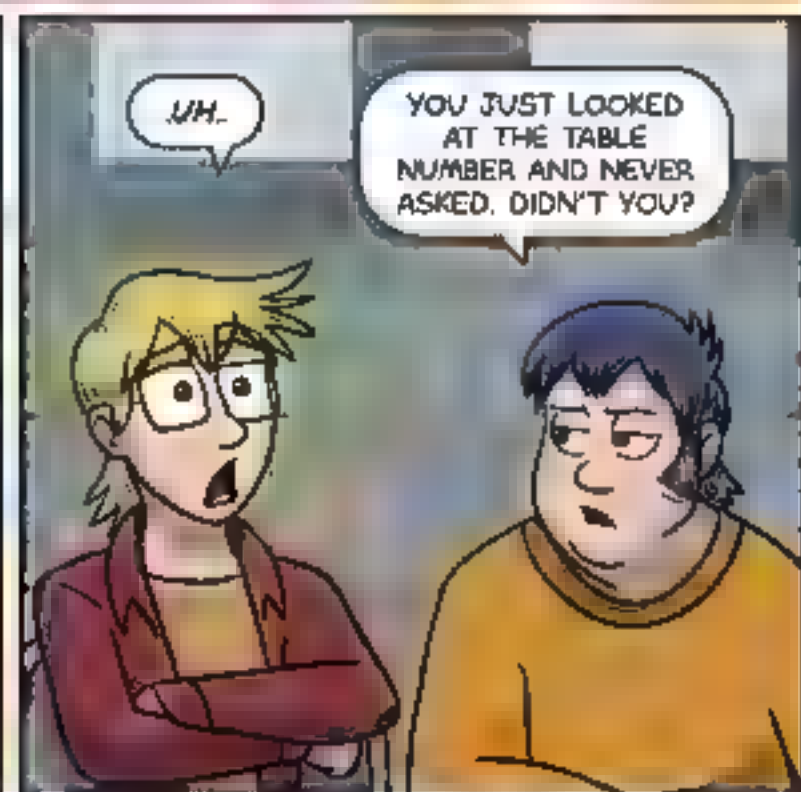
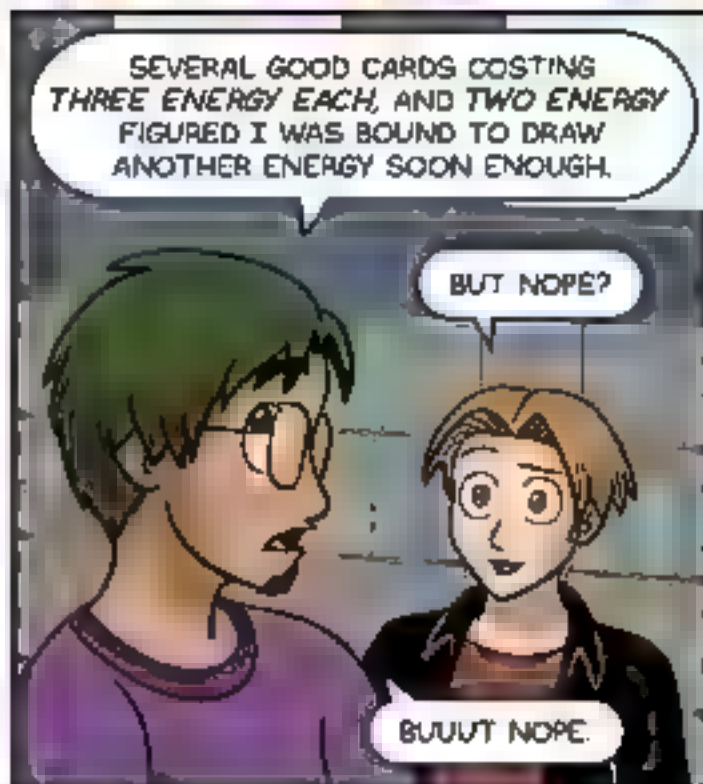
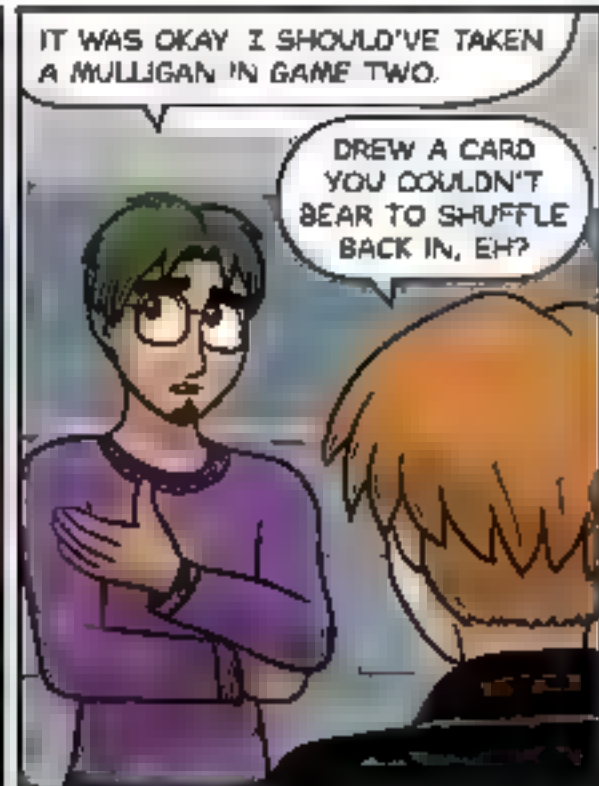
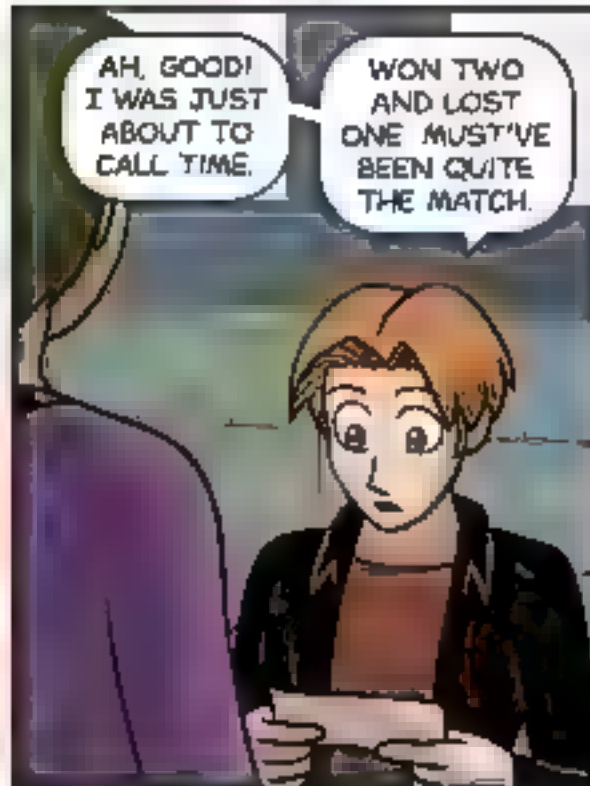
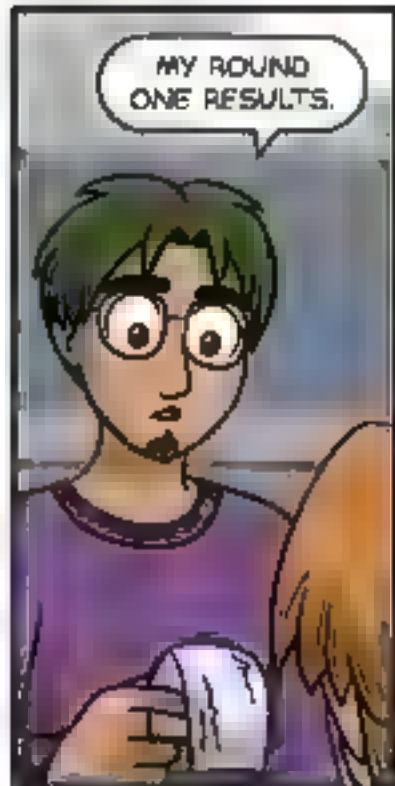
I WILL FIND ONE





I'M GOING TO PLAY SO MUCH BETTER TONIGHT BECAUSE OF HIM.

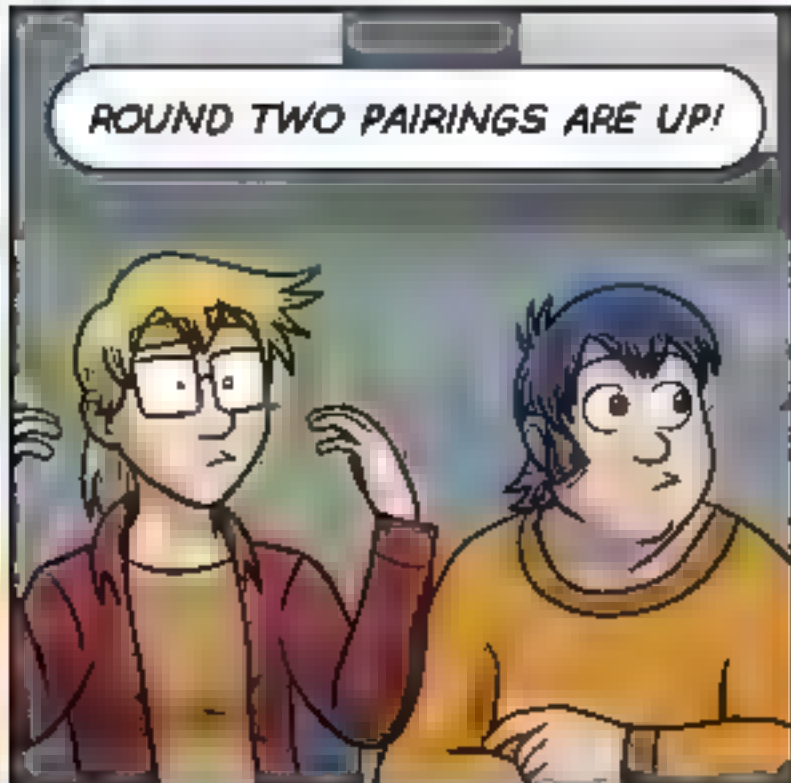






HER NAME!
HOW DID I
NOT ASK HER
NAME?!

ALRIGHT RELAX ROUND
ONE PAIRINGS ARE STILL
POSTED. WE'LL JUST GO
LOOK AND SEE WHAT
HER NAME IS.

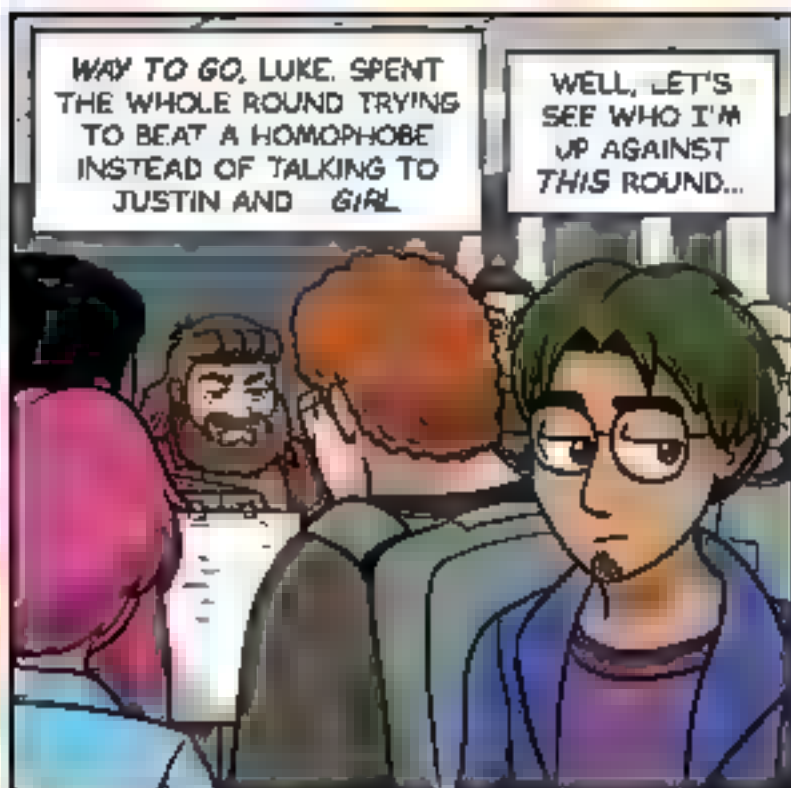


ROUND TWO PAIRINGS ARE UP!



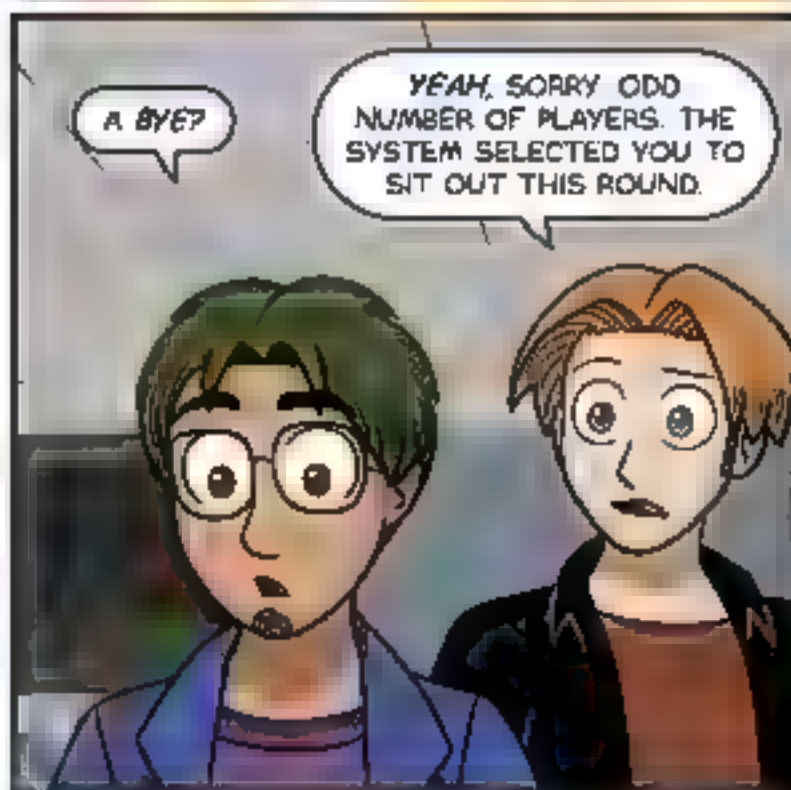
GAH!

ALRIGHT RELAX ROUND
ONE PAIRINGS AREN'T STILL
POSTED BUT WE CAN
FIGURE IT OUT FROM THE
ROUND TWO PAIRINGS.



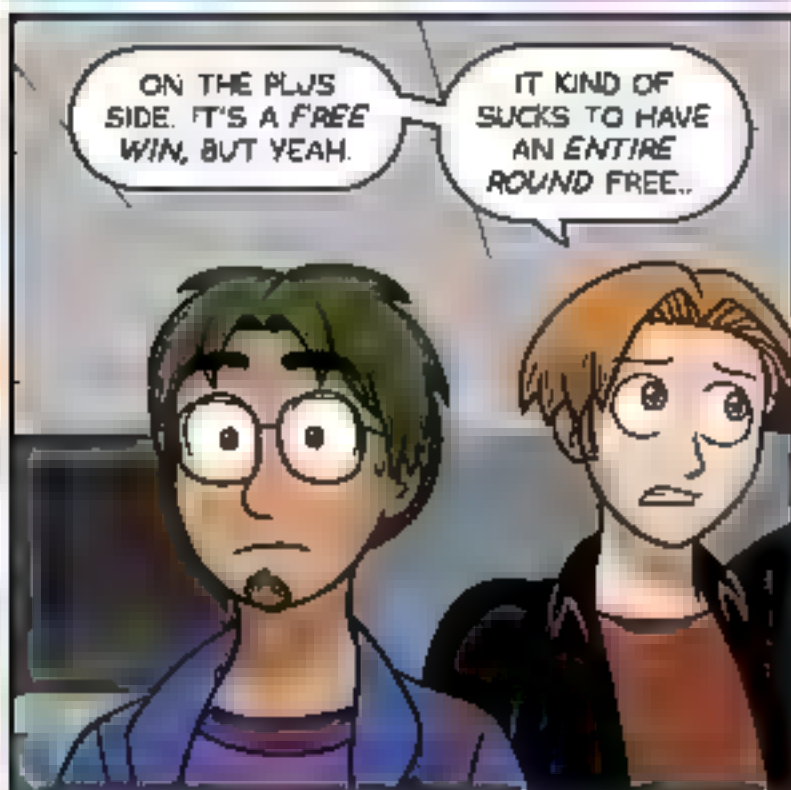
WAY TO GO, LUKE. SPENT
THE WHOLE ROUND TRYING
TO BEAT A HOMOPHOBE
INSTEAD OF TALKING TO
JUSTIN AND GIRL

WELL, LET'S
SEE WHO I'M
UP AGAINST
THIS ROUND...



A BYE?

YEAH, SORRY ODD
NUMBER OF PLAYERS. THE
SYSTEM SELECTED YOU TO
SIT OUT THIS ROUND.



ON THE PLUS
SIDE. IT'S A FREE
WIN, BUT YEAH.

IT KIND OF
SUCKS TO HAVE
AN ENTIRE
ROUND FREE..

UH, ARE YOU SURE? I MEAN, I DID WIN THE FIRST ROUND...

I GAVE UP TRYING TO FIGURE OUT HOW THEIR SYSTEM DETERMINES BYES A LONG TIME AGO. ALL I KNOW IS THAT'S WHAT THE COMPUTER SAID AND I HAVE TO GO BY THAT

RIGHT
RIGHT CAN'T
BE HELPED

YAY I GOT
EXACTLY WHAT
I NEEDED
CELEBRATE THE
@#\$%ING GOOD
TIMES

OKAY LOOKS
LIKE SHE'S AT
TABLE THREE

NO THAT HALF
OF THE TABLE IS
TABLE FOUR

FINE, SHE'S
AT "HALF TABLE"
FOUR. WHATEVER.
THAT WOULD BE

SOME DUDE
NAMED "TEDD",
VERSUS

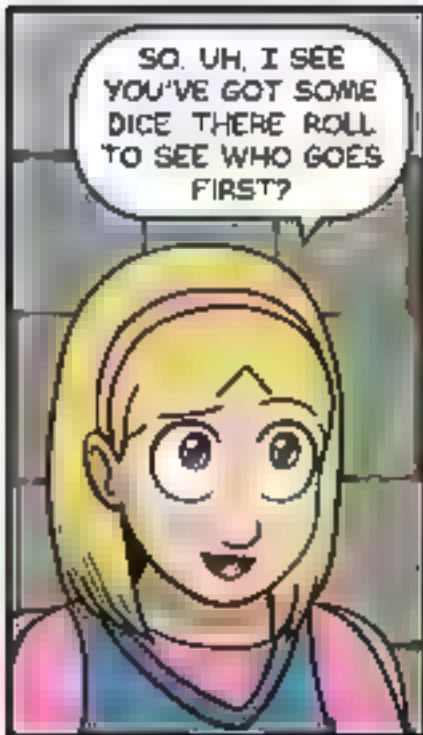
"SAM"

WHAT DO
YOU HAVE IN
ALL THOSE
POCKETS?

EVERYTHING I
COULD POSSIBLY
NEED EVER

POCKET'S
GUY SURE
LOOKS LIKE
A "TEDD"

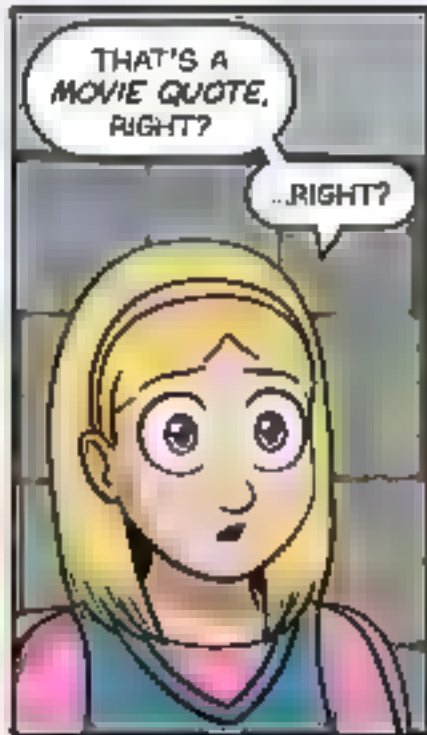
"SAMANTHA"



SO. UH, I SEE
YOU'VE GOT SOME
DICE THERE ROLL
TO SEE WHO GOES
FIRST?

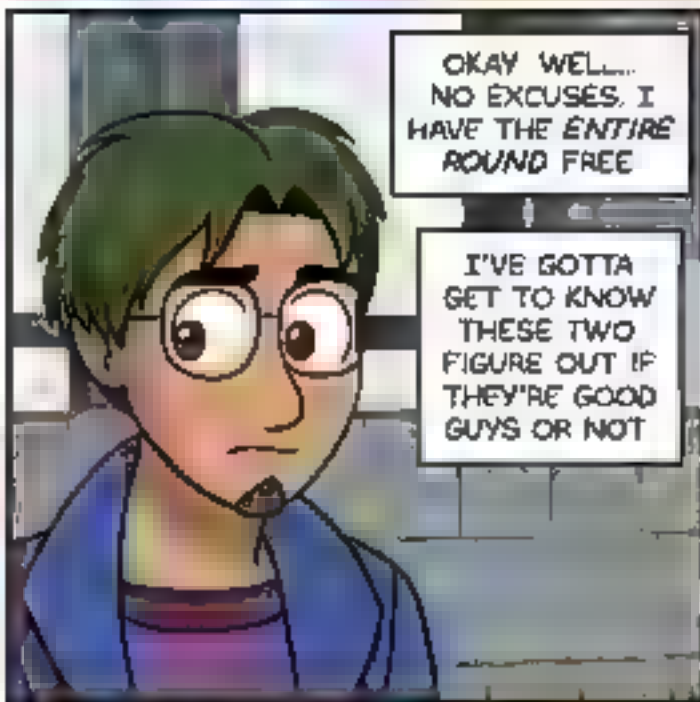


I WILL BREAK YOU.



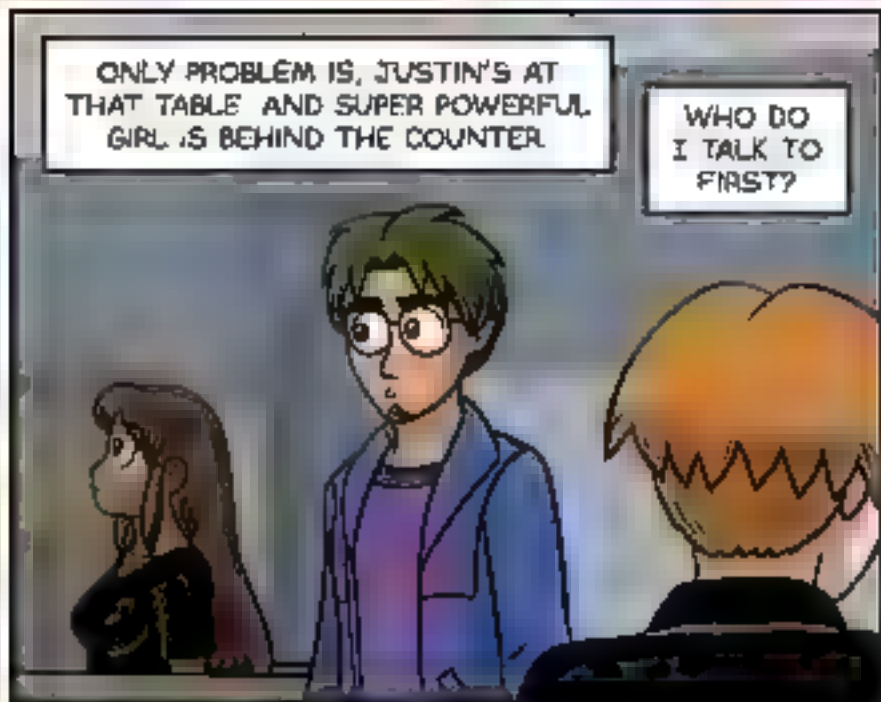
THAT'S A
MOVIE QUOTE,
RIGHT?

...RIGHT?



OKAY WELL...
NO EXCUSES. I
HAVE THE ENTIRE
ROUND FREE

I'VE GOTTA
GET TO KNOW
THESE TWO
FIGURE OUT IF
THEY'RE GOOD
GUYS OR NOT



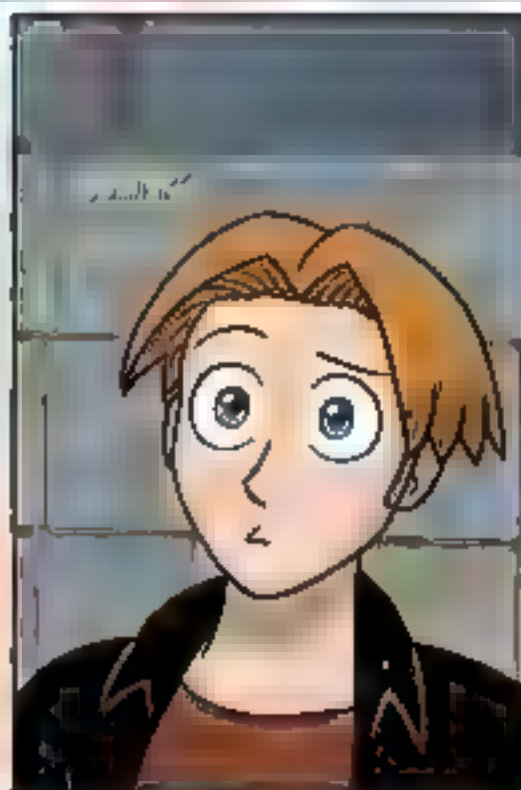
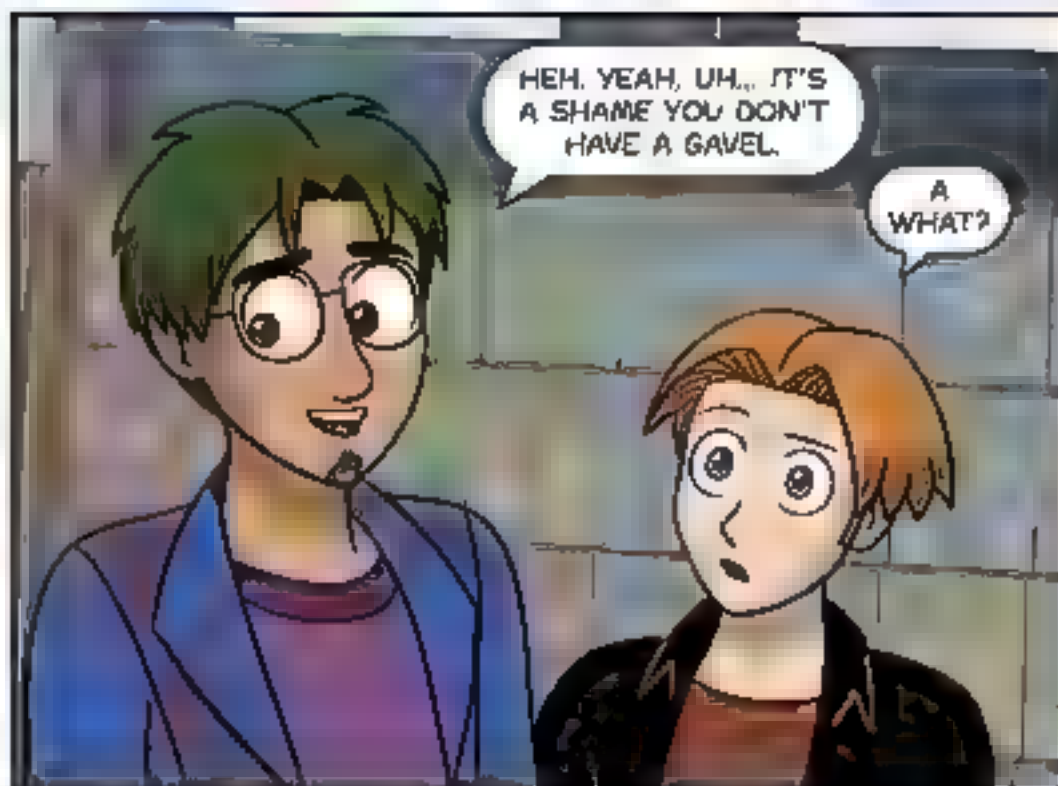
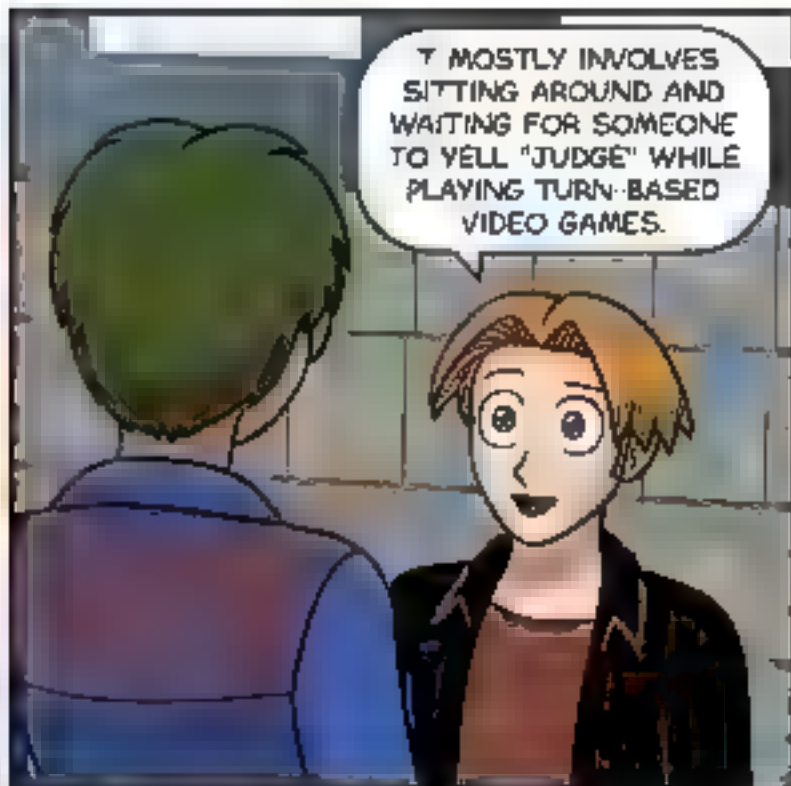
ONLY PROBLEM IS, JUSTIN'S AT
THAT TABLE AND SUPER POWERFUL
GIRL IS BEHIND THE COUNTER

WHO DO
I TALK TO
FIRST?



JUSTIN
DEFINITELY
JUSTIN.

JUSTIN
FOREVER.



YOU'RE NOT REALLY SURE WHAT TO DO WITH YOURSELF DURING THIS FREE ROUND ARE YOU?

WELL, UH..

THERE'S AN OPEN SEAT NEXT TO ME IF YOU'D LIKE TO SIT

NEXT TO YOU?

WELL, WE COULD MOVE THE CHAIR

NO, THAT'S OKAY YEAH, I CAN SIT THERE

COOL HERE I'LL MAKE IT EASIER TO GET BY

I'D JUST GIVE YOU THE END SEAT BUT I NEED TO BE ABLE TO QUICKLY GET UP N' JUDGE.

RIGHT YES. NOT A PROBLEM. GOTTA JUDGE THE PEOPLES.

NOW I'M TRAPPED WHY DIDN'T I SAY "YES" TO MOVING THE CHAIR I DON'T NEED TO SIT NEXT TO HIM TO TALK TO HIM I FAIL AT ALL OF THE THINGS

WHAT ON EARTH DID THAT OTHER COMIC SHOP DO TO YOU?

THAT
OTHER COMIC
SHOP?

THAT
CARD IS
SO GAY

I LOST?
THAT'S GAY

LOOK AT
THE GUY ON
THIS CARD!
SO GAY

THAT
RULE IS
GAY

THAT GAY
MECHANIC IS
SO GAY

THAT IS THE GAYEST
THING THAT HAS
EVER BEEN GAY

GAY

STAR WARS OR STAR TREK?

STAR.
WHAT?

THAT'S WHAT I'D RATHER
ASK YOU THAN ANSWER
THAT QUESTION.

OH, WELL... APPLES
AND ORANGES, REALLY
UNLESS WE'RE TALKING
ABOUT ABRAMS TREK,
IN WHICH CASE I'D GO
WITH STAR WARS.

THOUGH
ABRAMS TREK
IS A GUILTY
PLEASURE

EVEN THE
STAR WARS
PREQUELS?

HELL
YEAH THE
PREQUELS!

HORR BLE
THEY MAY BE
BUT MUCH TO
TALK ABOUT
THERE IS.

THEY'RE LIKE A CONVERSATION
PIECE WITH LIGHTSABERS!

EXACTLY!

ALSO, THE CLONE
WARS CARTOONS?

OH MY GOD
THE CLONE WARS
CARTOONS

HMMM. HMPH.
YOUR TURN. IF
YOU DARE

OF COURSE I DARE. WHAT
ELSE AM I GONNA DO?

DRAW A CARD AND,
AN ENERGY CARD! YES!
I FINALLY GET TO
SUMMON ALUDRAKRALA!
IN YOUR FACE, TEN...

WAIT I'M PRETTY SURE
HE WAS THINKING ABOUT
CASTING SOMETHING. BUT
HE LEFT THREE ENERGY
FREE INSTEAD...

GEORGE WARNED ME
ABOUT WHAT THAT
MIGHT MEAN. AND NOT
EVEN ALUDRAKRALA IS
PROTECTED FROM THAT

WELL, I DO HAVE
THIS OTHER PRETTY
GOOD FIVE ENERGY
MONSTER. LET'S SEE
WHAT HAPPENS...

I
SUMMON
BEEFY
LYCAN—

Cancel Spell!

Target spell does
nothing and is
discarded.

HA! NO
MUSCULAR
LYCANTHROPE
FOR YOU!

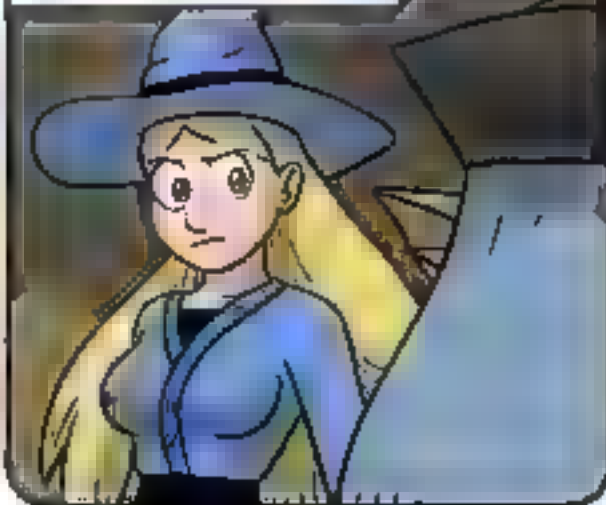
BUT SHE
WAS SO
BEEFY!

MWUH-
HAHAHA

AND THAT'S ALL
YOUR ENERGY USED
UP SO UNLESS YOU'D
LIKE TO ATTACK...



GEORGE SAID I NEEDED TO BE MORE
AGGRESSIVE. AND MY WEREWOLF
CAN BEAT THAT MERMAID BUT IF
THAT MERMAID DAMAGES ME ITS
ABILITY MEANS TEN-SIDED WOULD
GET TO DRAW A CARD...



SHE'S ON GUARD
DUTY YOUR TURN.



VERY WELL
I SUMMON

Big Pointy Teeth Drake!
3 Attack / 1 Health

Flies.



AND SINCE NEWLY
SUMMONED MONSTERS
CAN'T ATTACK RIGHT
AWAY, I END MY TURN.

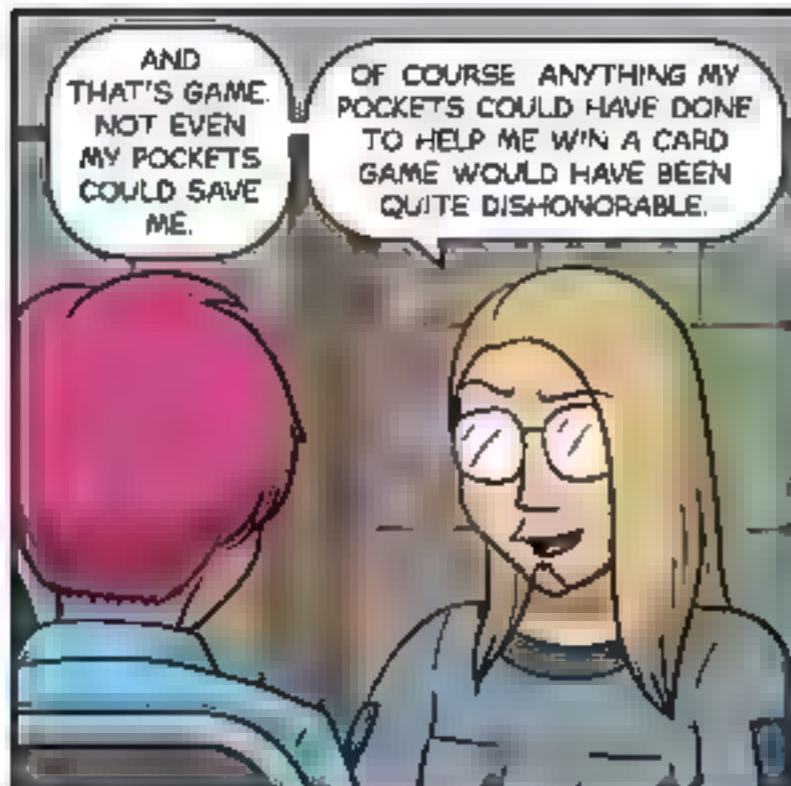


A SHAME YOUR "GUARD"
WILL FIND IT IMPOSSIBLE
TO STOP A FLYING---

O.P. Aludrakrala

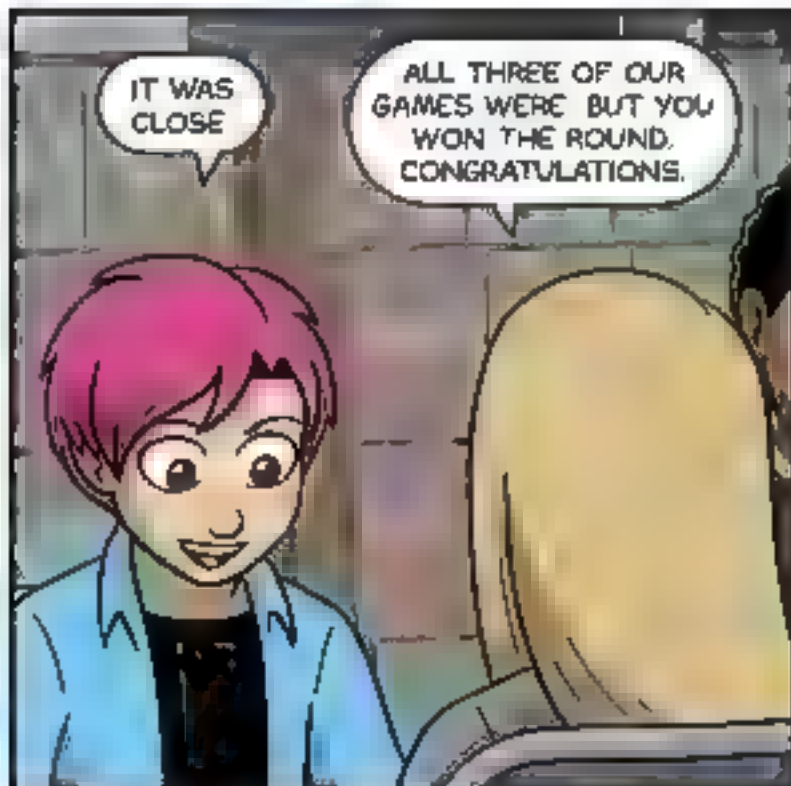
OH YEAH!





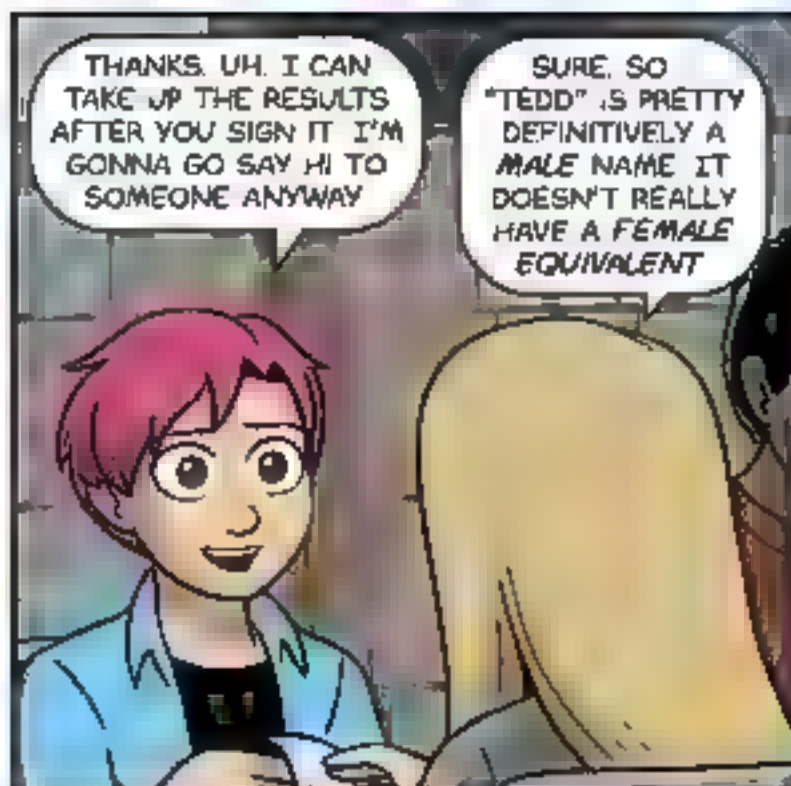
AND THAT'S GAME. NOT EVEN MY POCKETS COULD SAVE ME.

OF COURSE ANYTHING MY POCKETS COULD HAVE DONE TO HELP ME WIN A CARD GAME WOULD HAVE BEEN QUITE DISHONORABLE.



IT WAS CLOSE

ALL THREE OF OUR GAMES WERE BUT YOU WON THE ROUND. CONGRATULATIONS.



THANKS. UH. I CAN TAKE UP THE RESULTS AFTER YOU SIGN IT I'M GONNA GO SAY HI TO SOMEONE ANYWAY

SURE. SO "TEDD" IS PRETTY DEFINITELY A MALE NAME IT DOESN'T REALLY HAVE A FEMALE EQUIVALENT



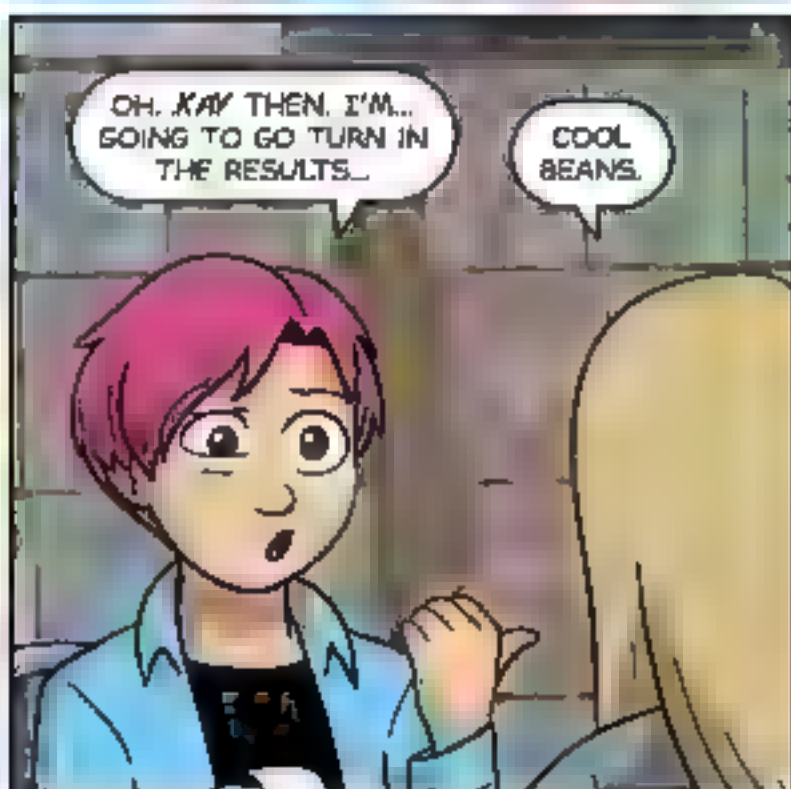
UH. MAYBE? WHY DOES THAT MATTER?

MAYBE IT DOESN'T IT'S NONE OF MY BUSINESS IF IT DOES



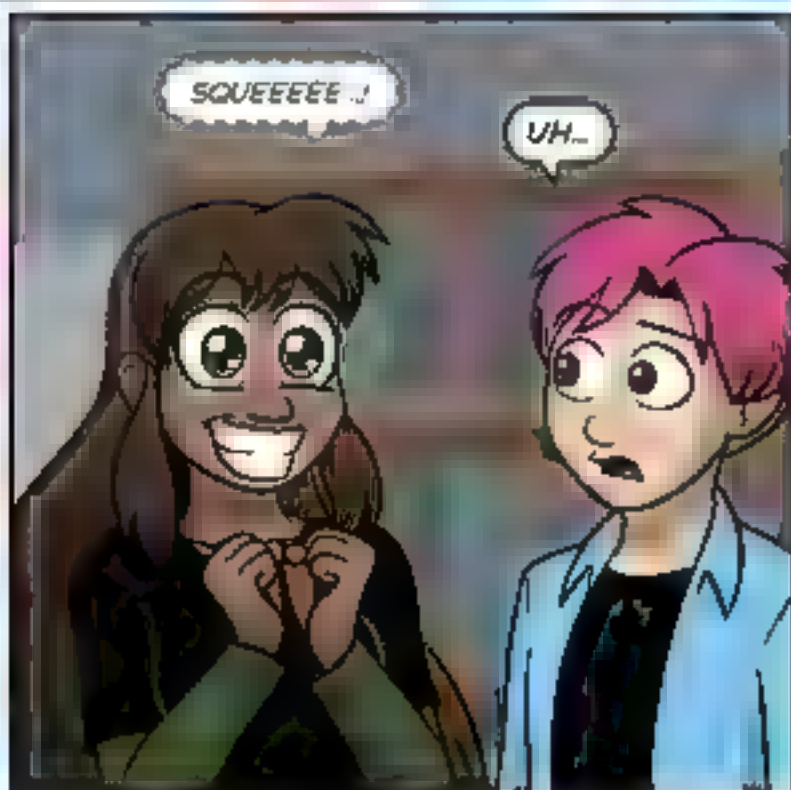
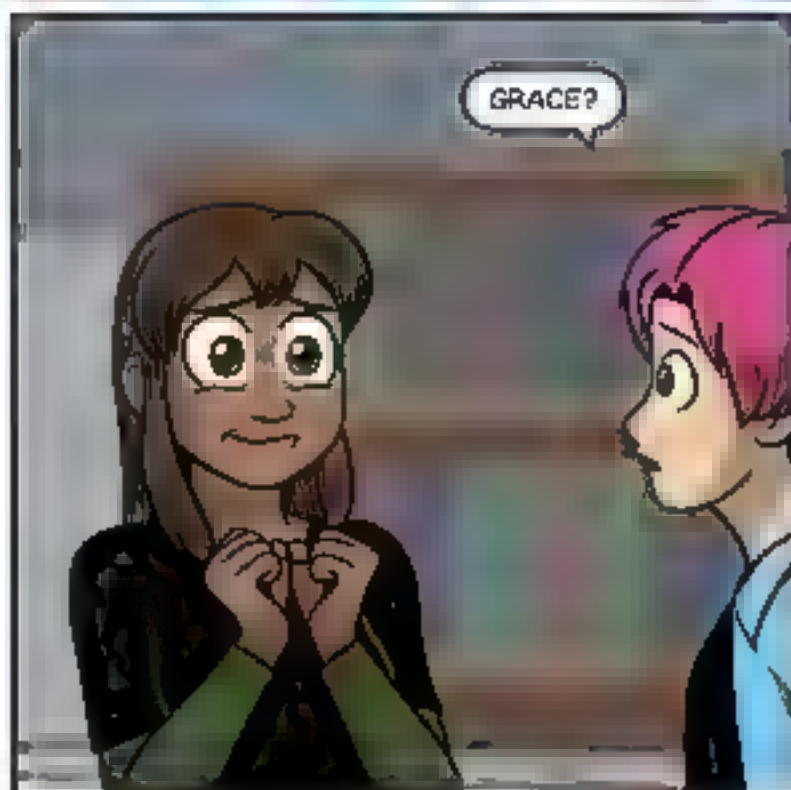
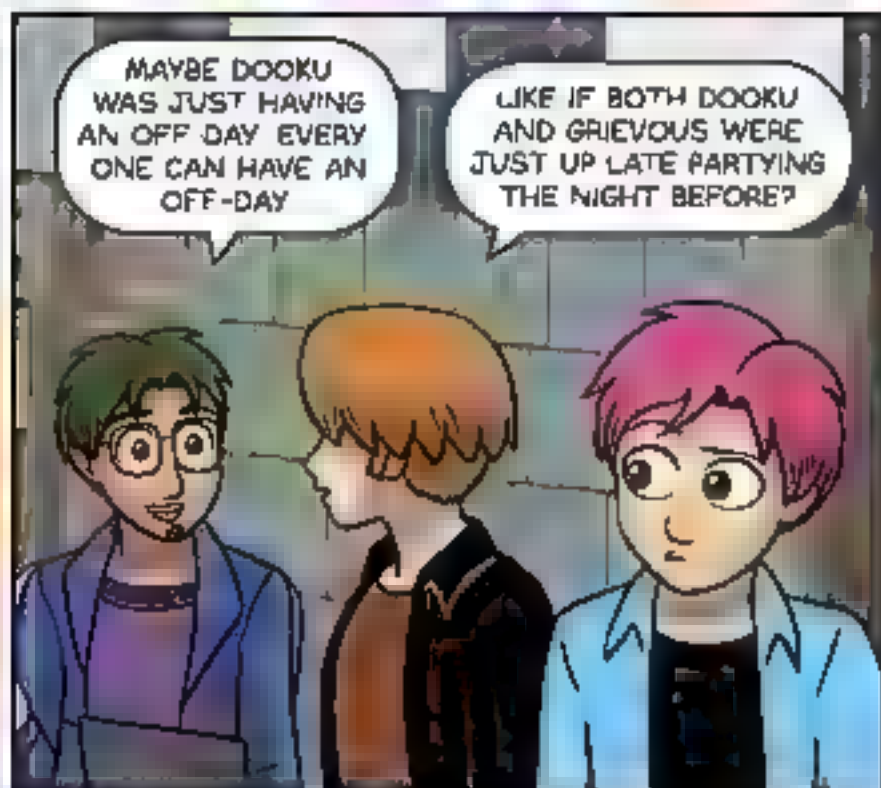
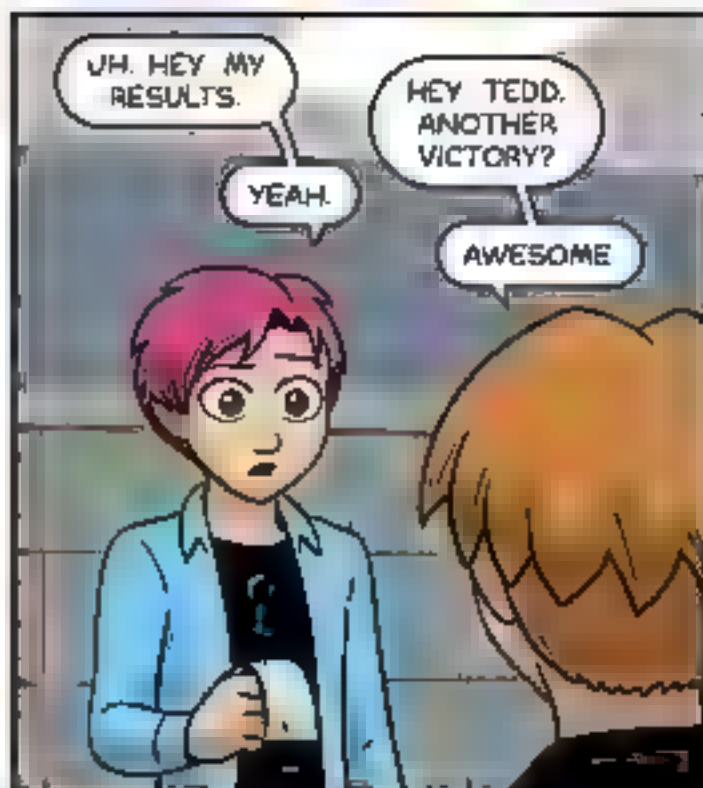
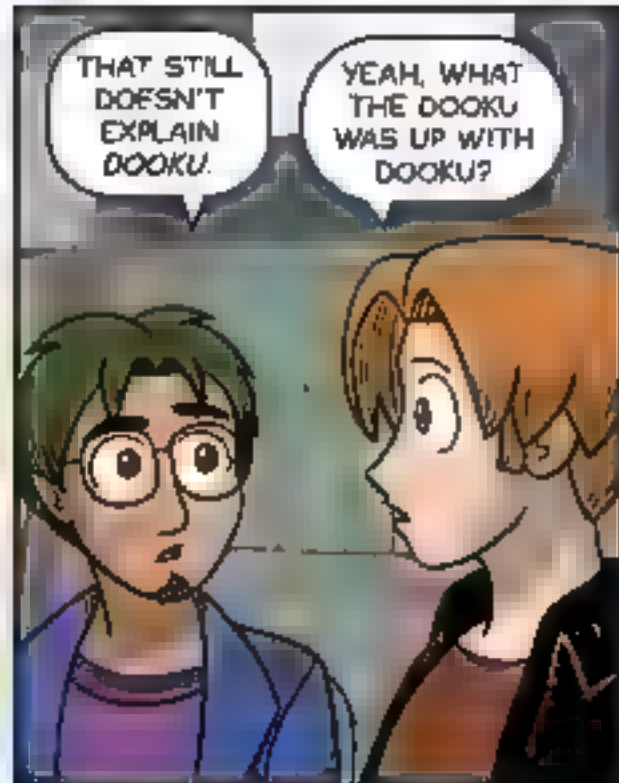
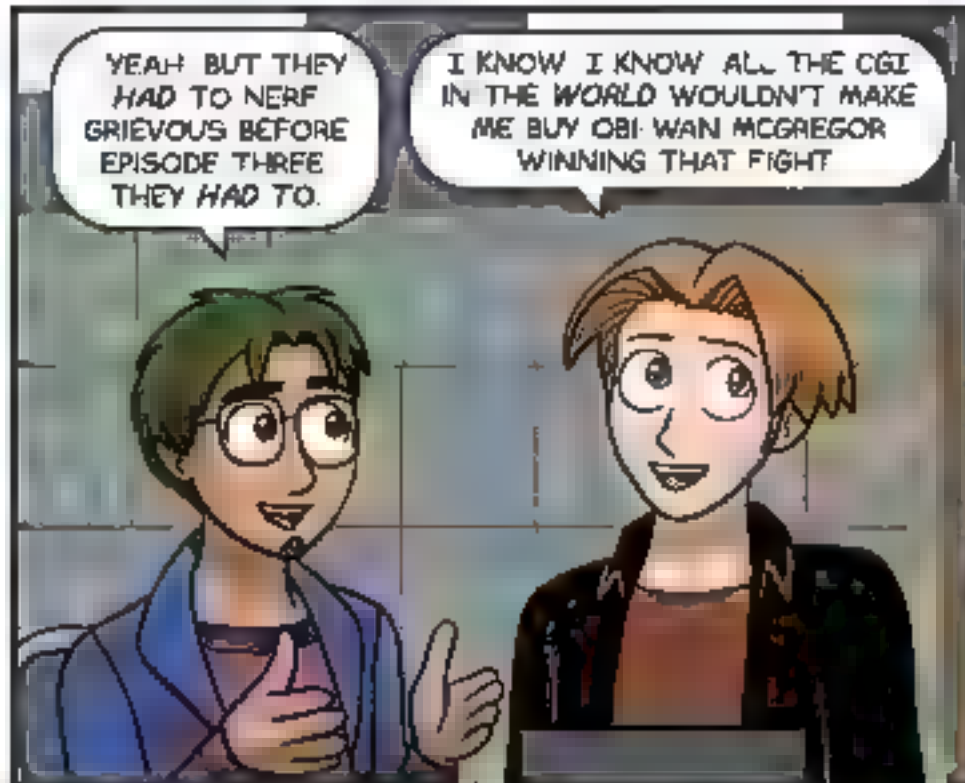
STILL YOU MIGHT WANT TO KEEP THE NAME "TESS" IN MIND

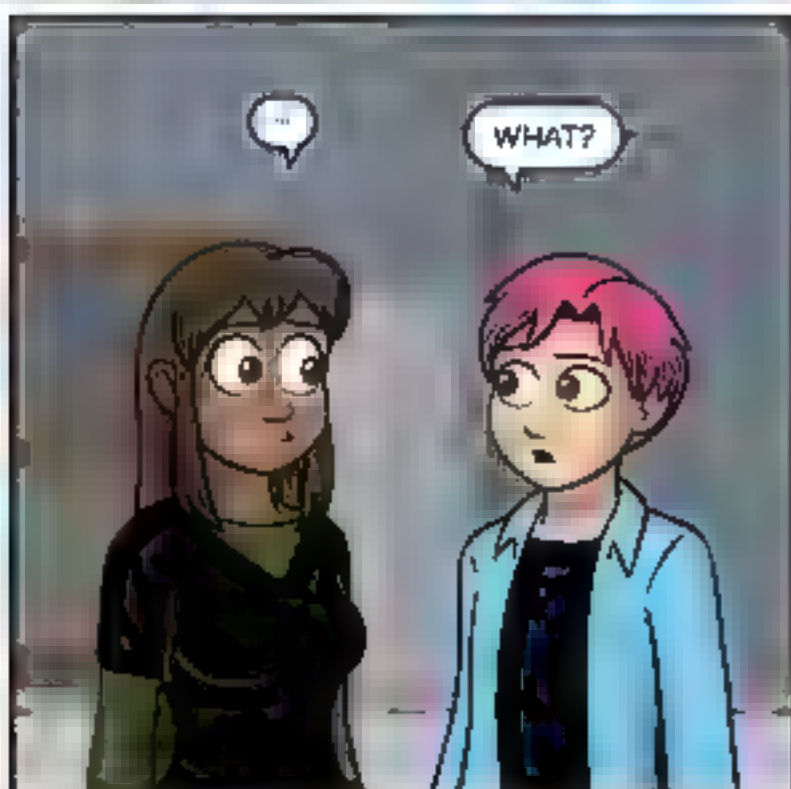
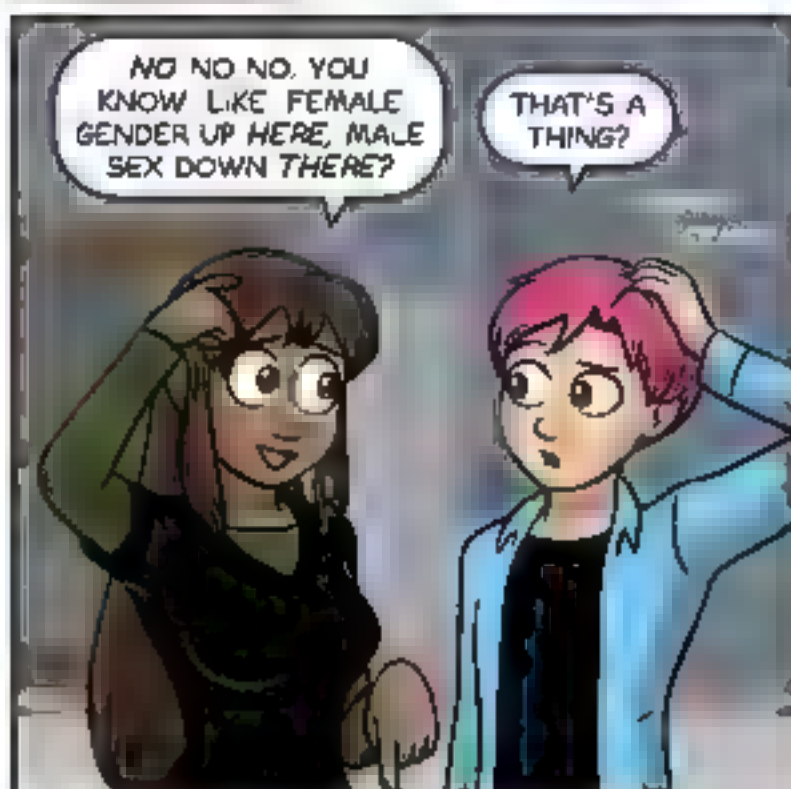
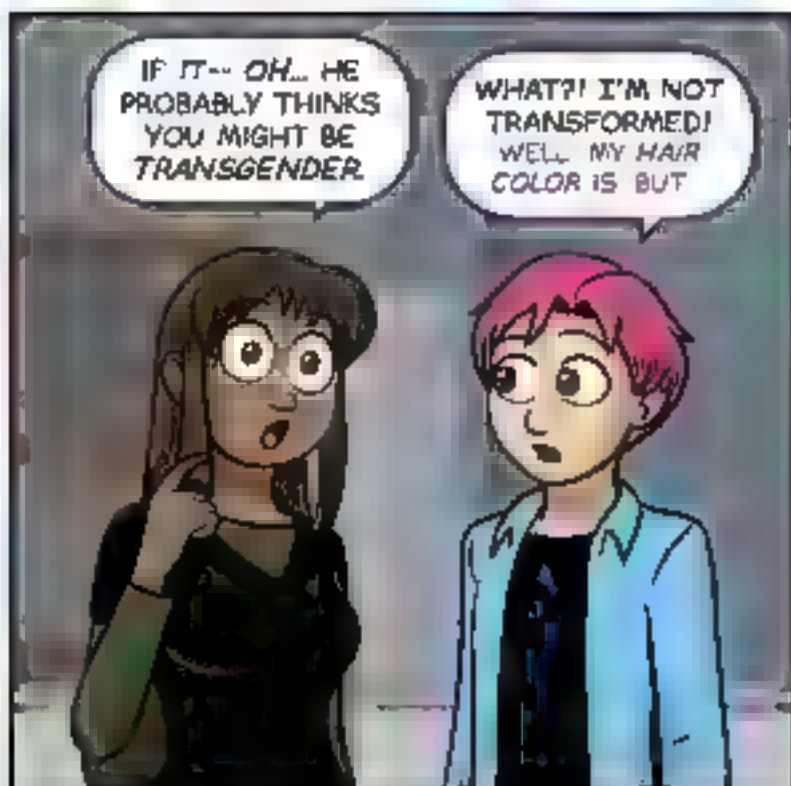
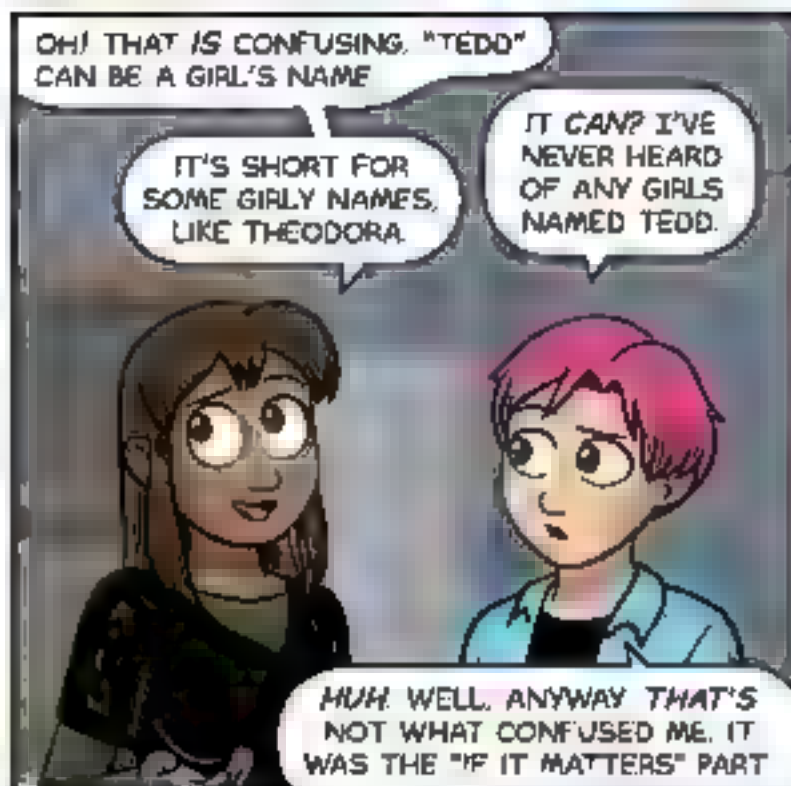
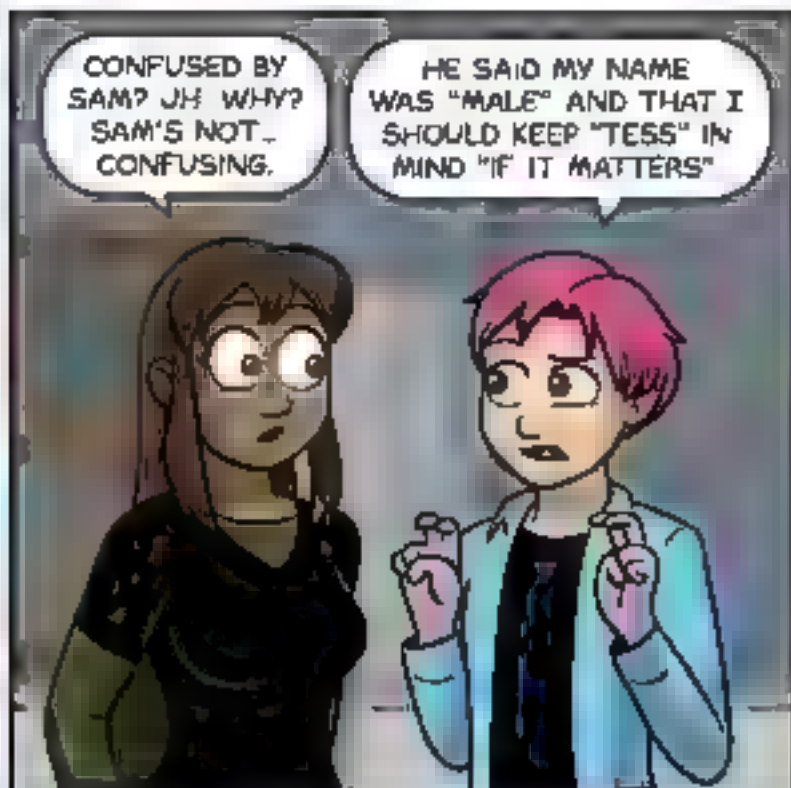
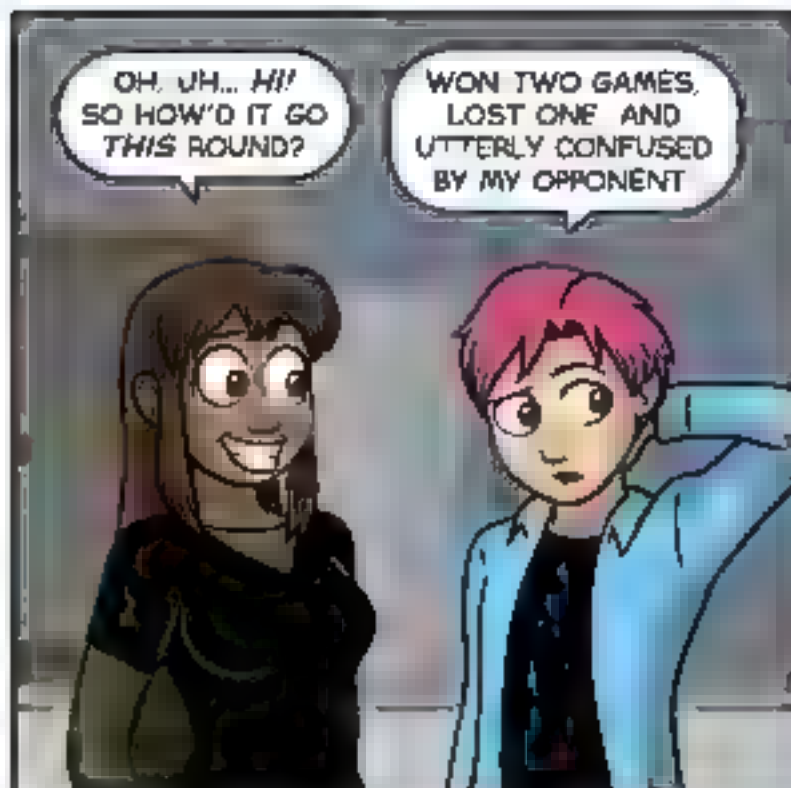
YOU KNOW JUST IN CASE IT DOES MATTER.

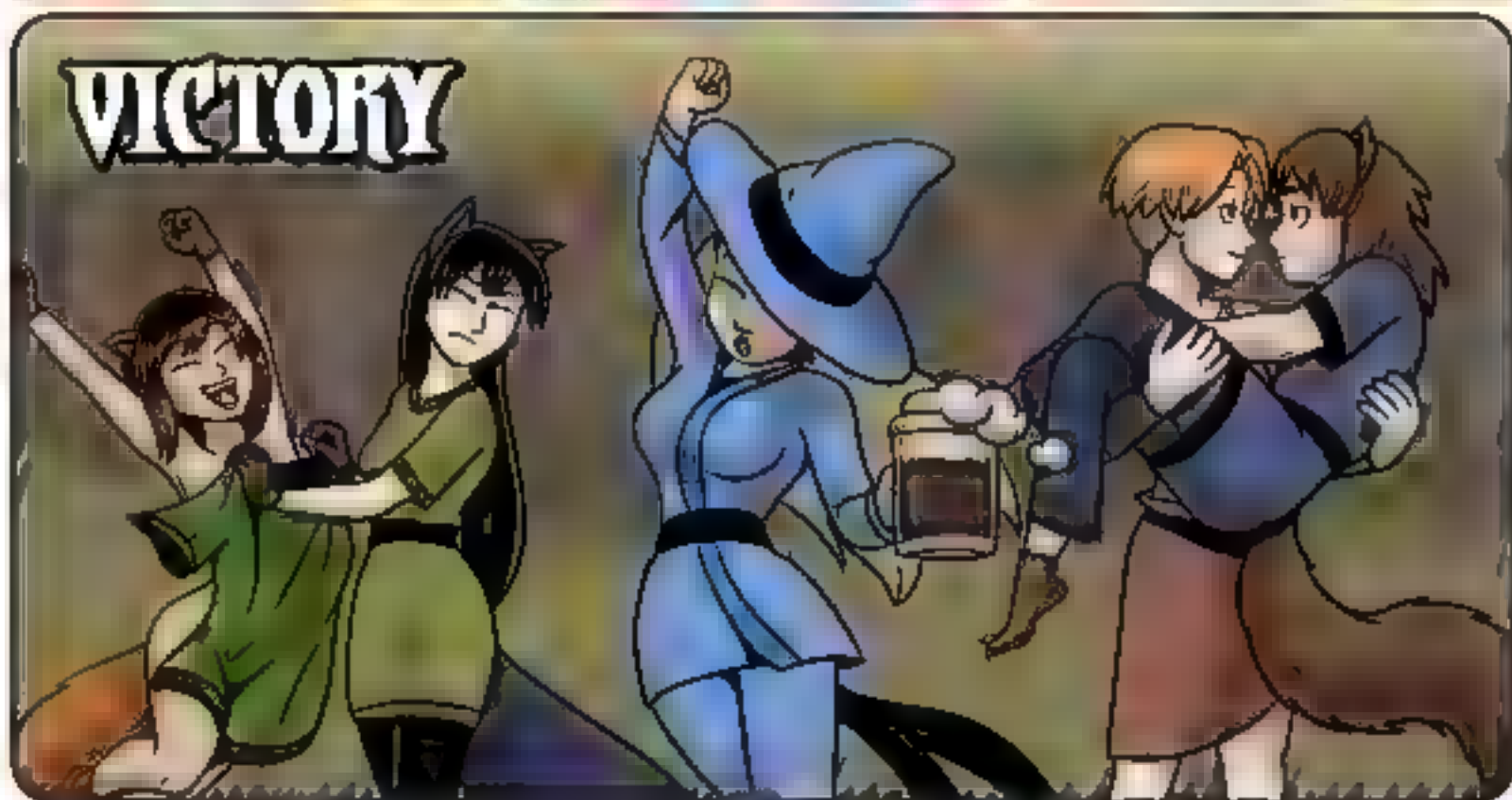
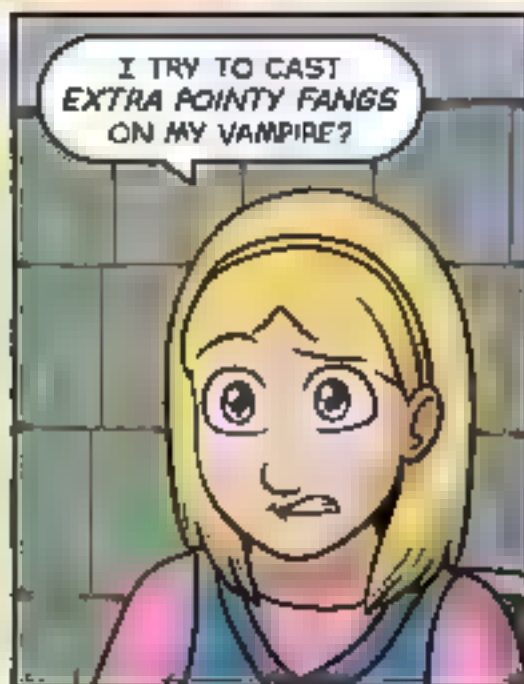


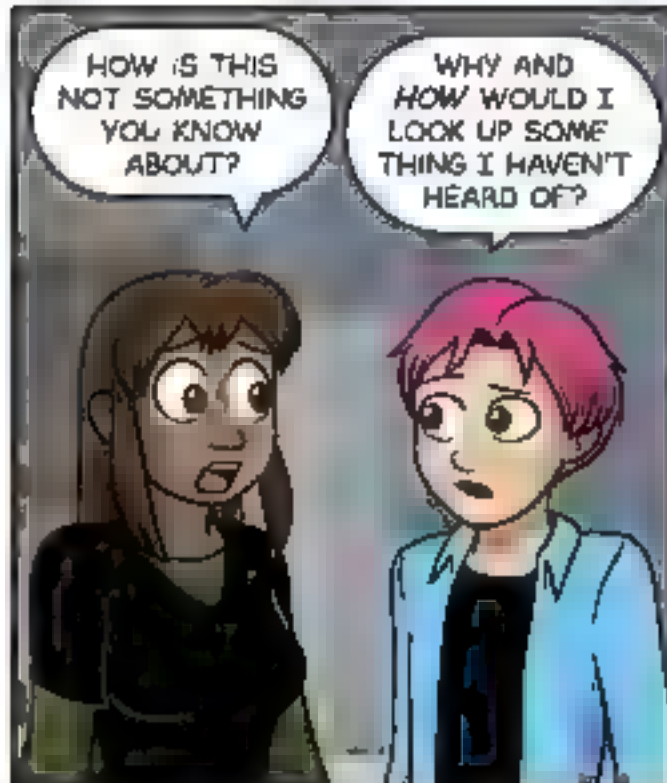
OH. KAY THEN. I'M... GOING TO GO TURN IN THE RESULTS...

COOL BEANS.



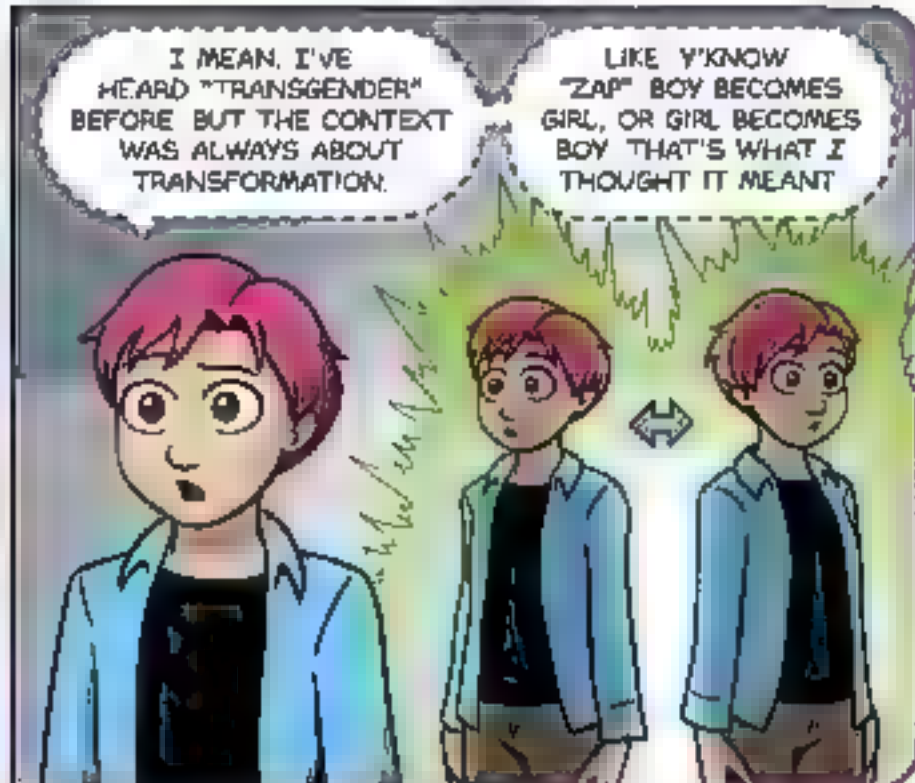






HOW IS THIS NOT SOMETHING YOU KNOW ABOUT?

WHY AND HOW WOULD I LOOK UP SOME THING I HAVEN'T HEARD OF?



I MEAN, I'VE HEARD "TRANSGENDER" BEFORE BUT THE CONTEXT WAS ALWAYS ABOUT TRANSFORMATION.

LIKE Y'KNOW "ZAP" BOY BECOMES GIRL, OR GIRL BECOMES BOY THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT IT MEANT



OH, WELL... I JUST SORTA FIGURED IT'S THE SORT OF THING YOU WOULD'VE LOOKED INTO EVEN IF YOU DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO CALL IT

ANYONE WITH ACCESS TO TRANSFORMATION TECH WOULD EXPERIMENT WITH BEING THE OPPOSITE SEX



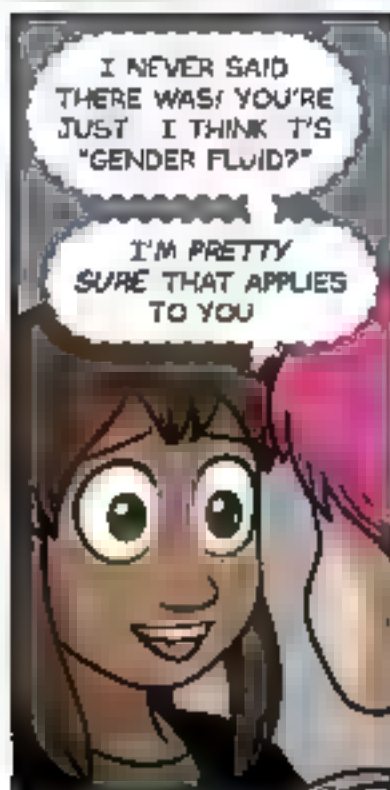
BUT I DON'T THINK THAT'S WHY YOU DO IT NOT ENTIRELY ANYWAY

I THINK YOUR GENDER IS... SOMEWHERE BETWEEN MALE AND FEMALE. AND SOMETIMES YOU FEEL MORE LIKE ONE THAN THE OTHER.



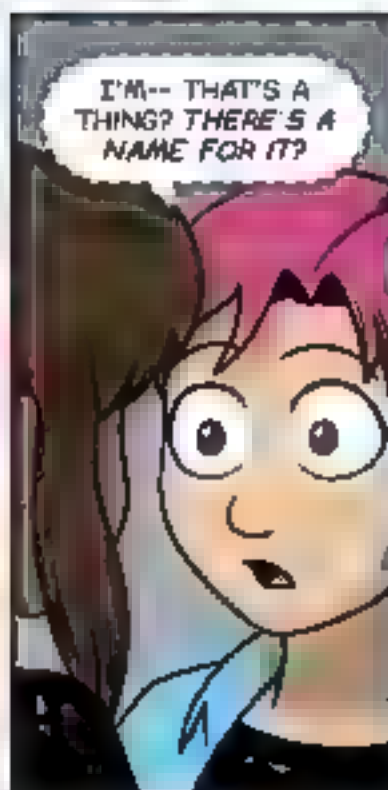
I, OKAY SOMETIMES BEING TRANSFORMED DOES FEEL MORE RIGHT, BUT THAT'S JUST HOW I AM.

THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH THAT

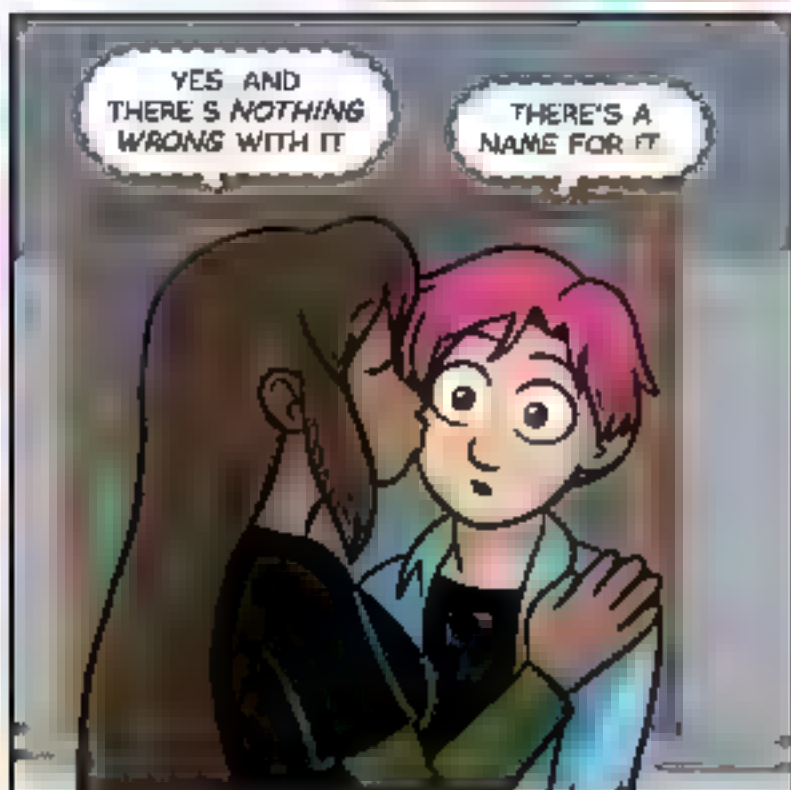


I NEVER SAID THERE WAS! YOU'RE JUST I THINK IT'S "GENDER FLUID?"

I'M PRETTY SURE THAT APPLIES TO YOU



I'M-- THAT'S A THING? THERE'S A NAME FOR IT?



YES AND THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH IT

THERE'S A NAME FOR IT

YOU HAVE
BESTED ME IN CARD
GAME COMBAT

LIMITED CARD GAME COMBAT
IN WHICH I COULD NOT UNLEASH MY
FULL POWER, BUT I AM BESTED NONE-
THELESS. HAVING WON TWO GAMES OUT
OF THREE. THE ROUND IS YOURS.

WELL, UM. THANK
YOU? YOU PLAYED
WELL, TOO. A LOT
OF IT WAS--

LET IT BE
KNOWN TO ALL
THAT SARAH
BROWN HAS
PROVEN HERSELF
IN THE CARD-
STOCK RING!

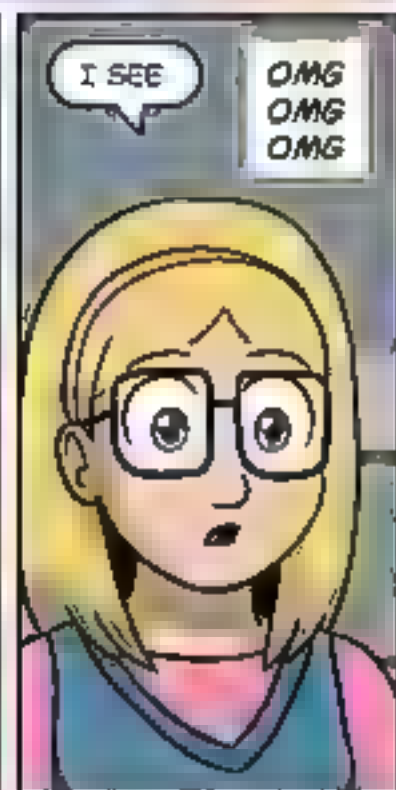
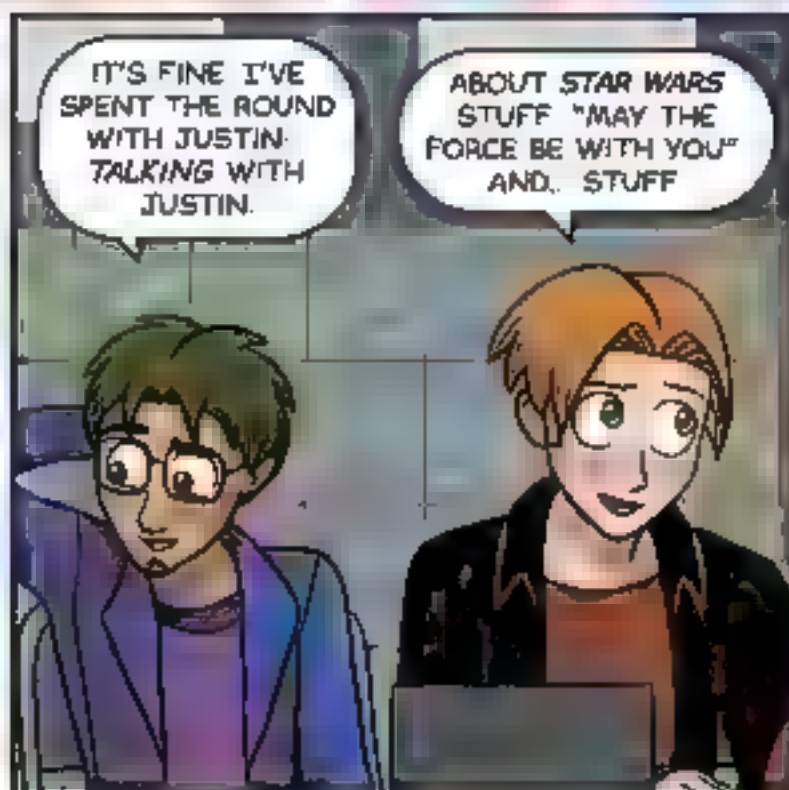
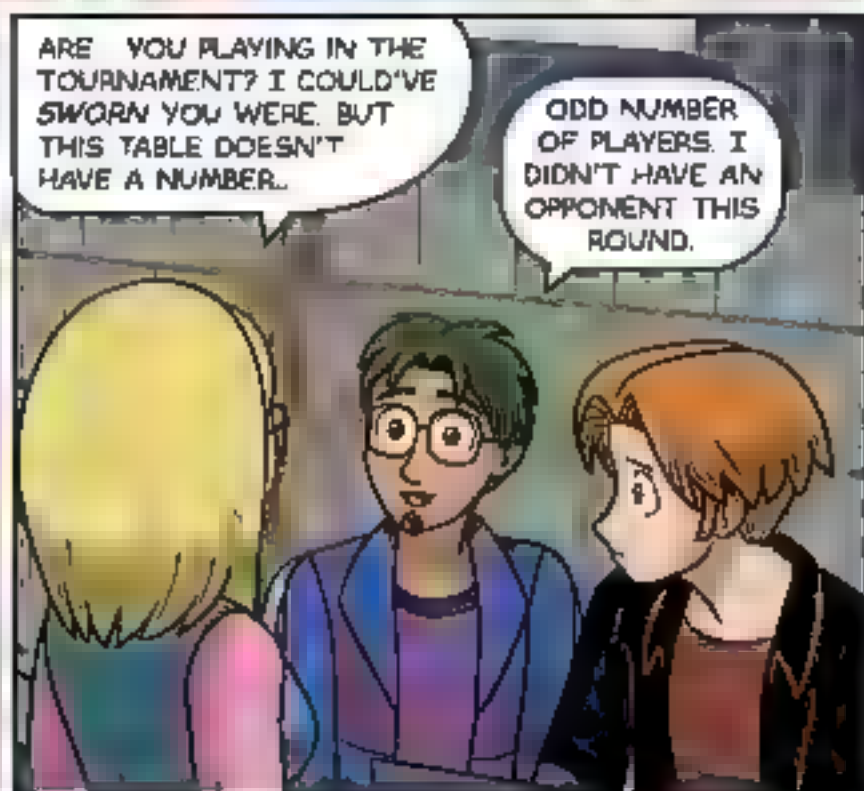
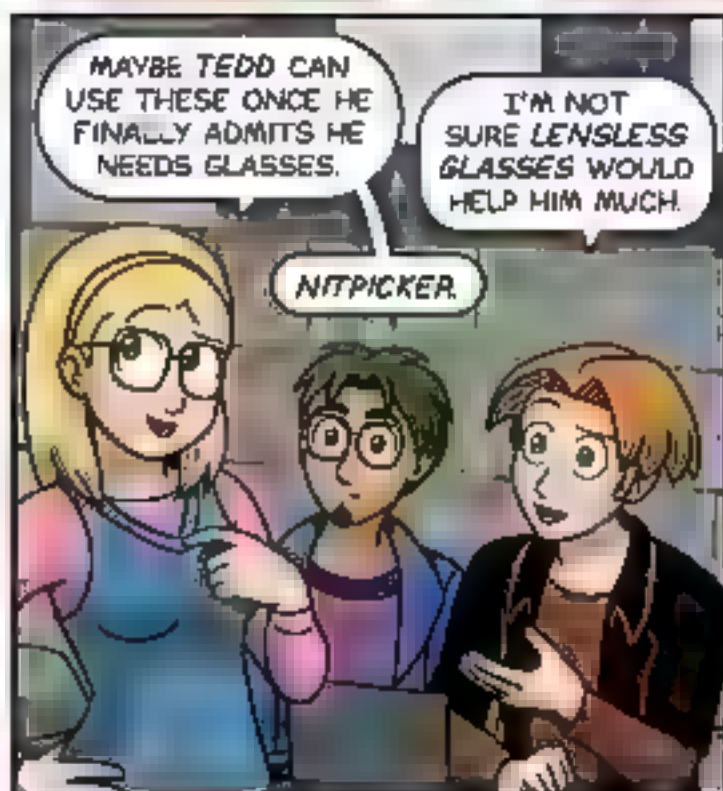
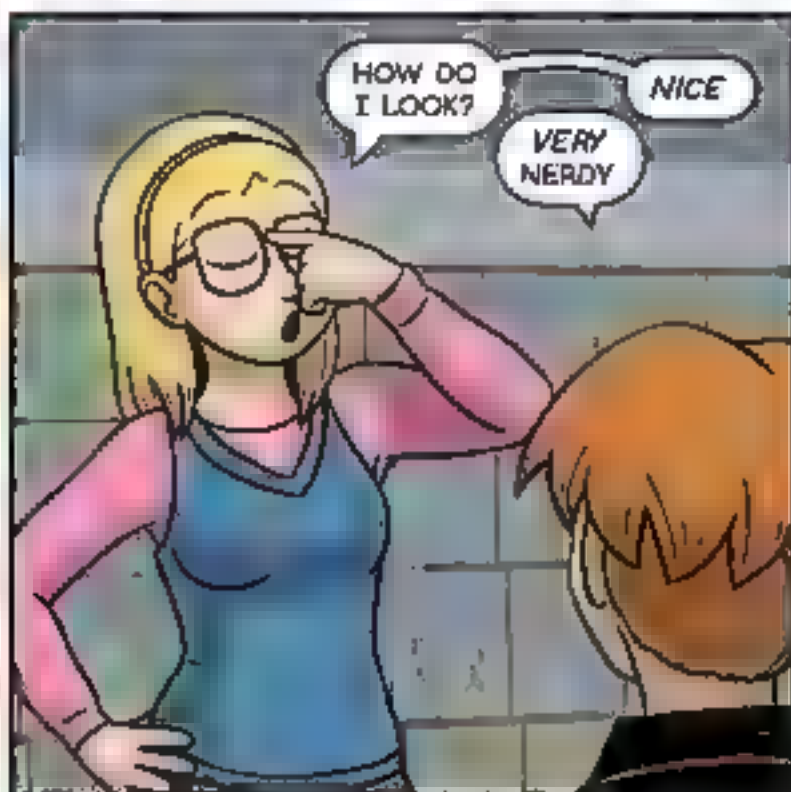
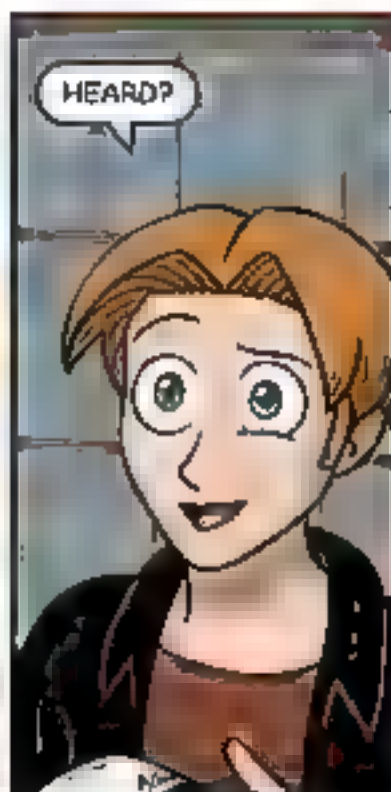
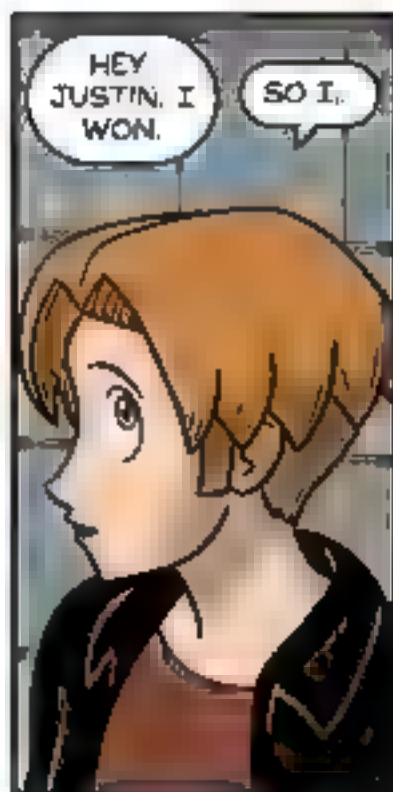
ANY WHO WOULD
DOUBT HER STATUS
AS A GEEK, DOUBT
NO MORE! SHE IS
ONE OF US!

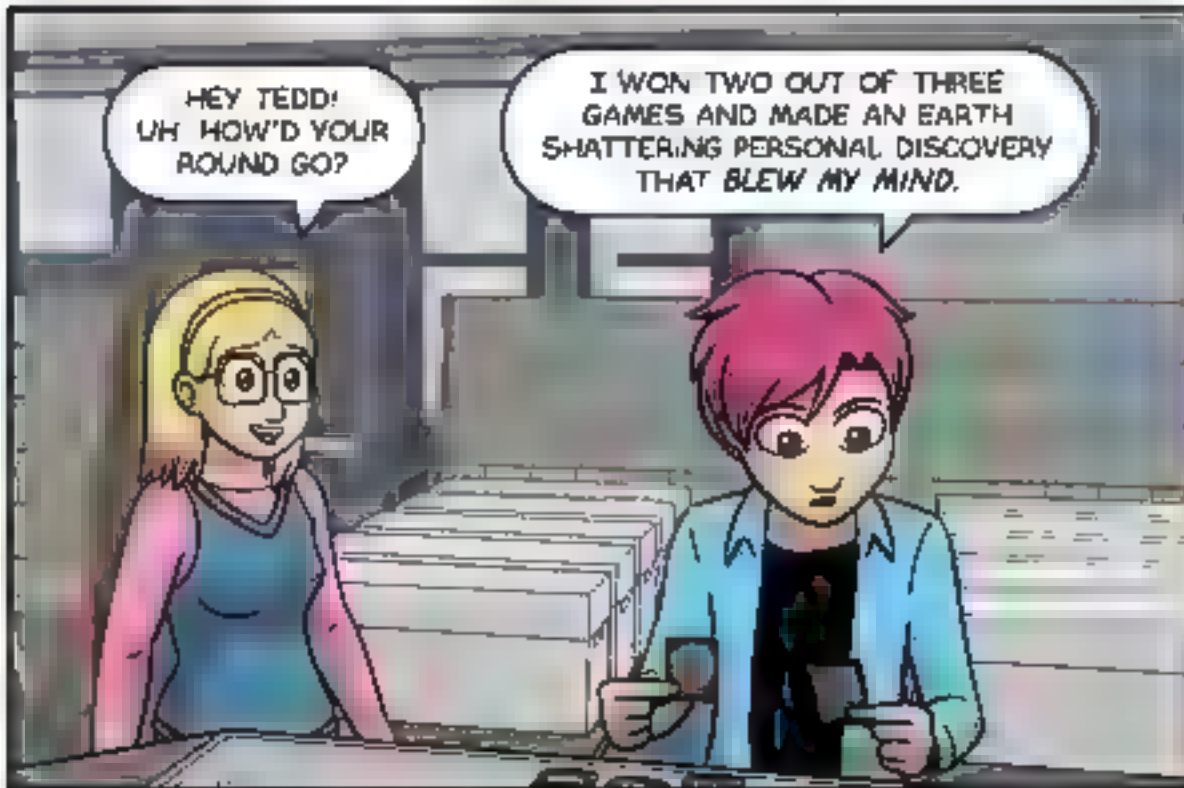
SHE BEAT
TENSATEDP
HMM. GUESS
SHE IS
A GEEK!

MAYBE A
LEVEL ONE
GEEK.

IS THAT
REALLY THE SORT
OF THING I NEED
TO PROVE?

NO. BUT I KNOW HOW
SOME OF THE GUYS HERE ARE
NOW PLEASE ENJOY THIS
COMPLIMENTARY PAIR OF NERD
COSTUME GLASSES.



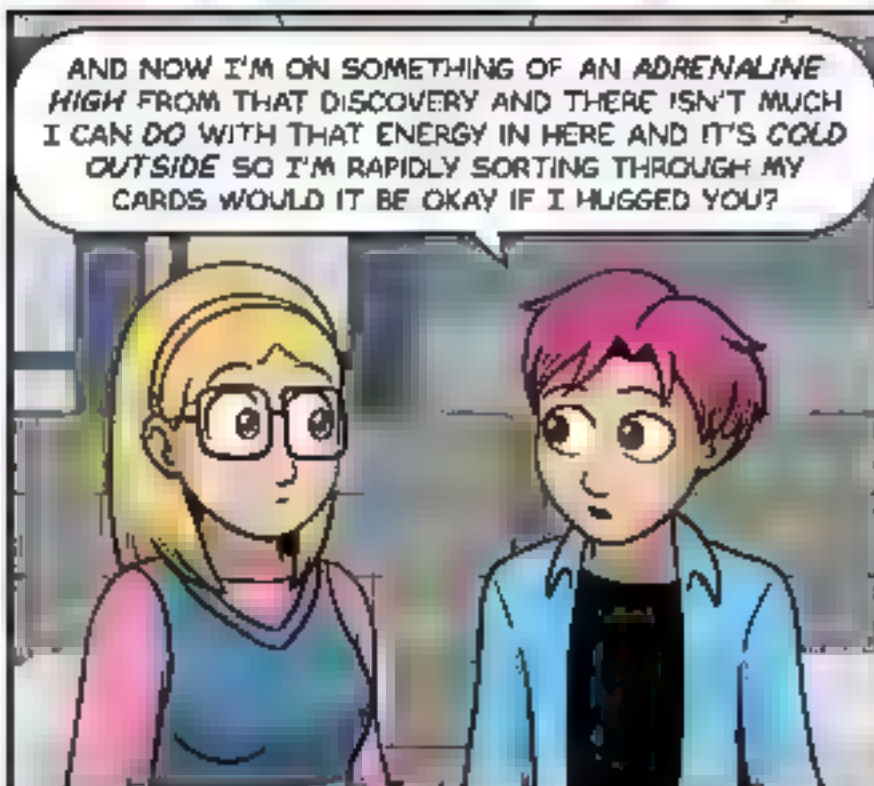


HEY TEDD!
UH HOW'D YOUR
ROUND GO?

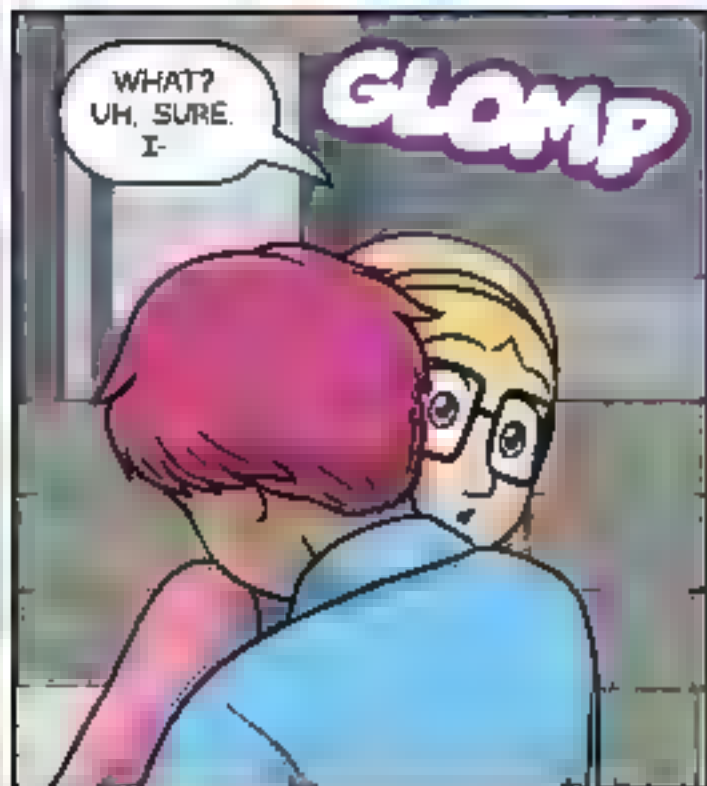
I WON TWO OUT OF THREE
GAMES AND MADE AN EARTH
SHATTERING PERSONAL DISCOVERY
THAT BLEW MY MIND.



YOU
DID WHAT
NOW?

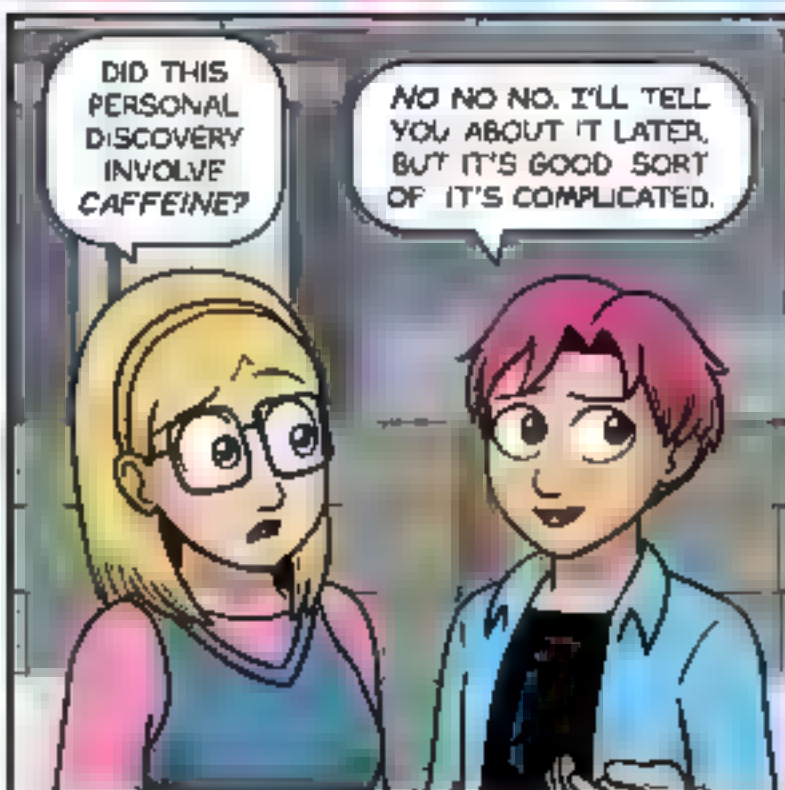


AND NOW I'M ON SOMETHING OF AN ADRENALINE
HIGH FROM THAT DISCOVERY AND THERE ISN'T MUCH
I CAN DO WITH THAT ENERGY IN HERE AND IT'S COLD
OUTSIDE SO I'M RAPIDLY SORTING THROUGH MY
CARDS WOULD IT BE OKAY IF I HUGGED YOU?



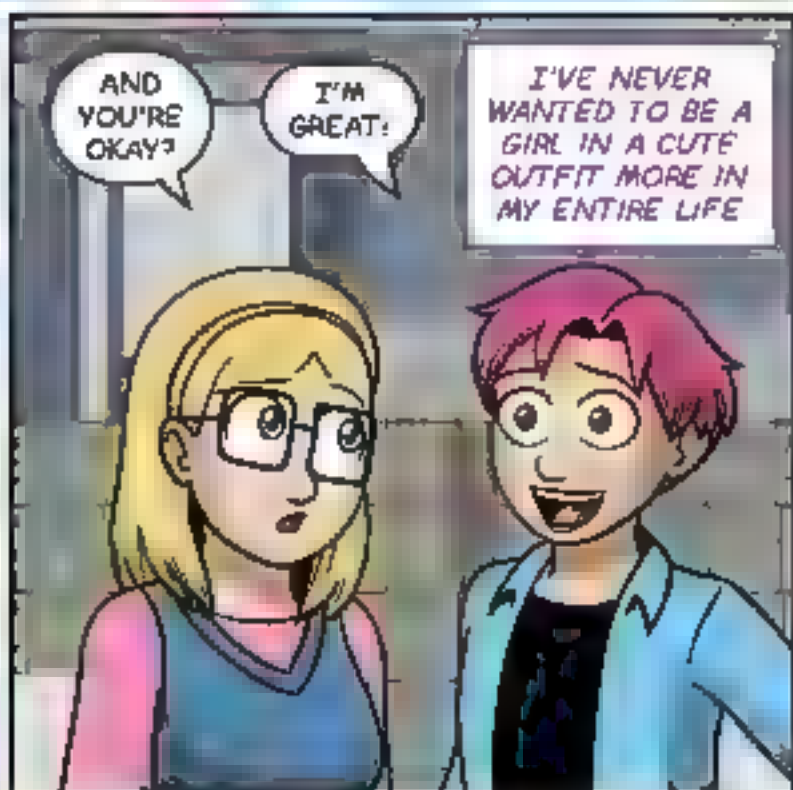
WHAT?
UH, SURE.
I-

GLOMP



DID THIS
PERSONAL
DISCOVERY
INVOLVE
CAFFEINE?

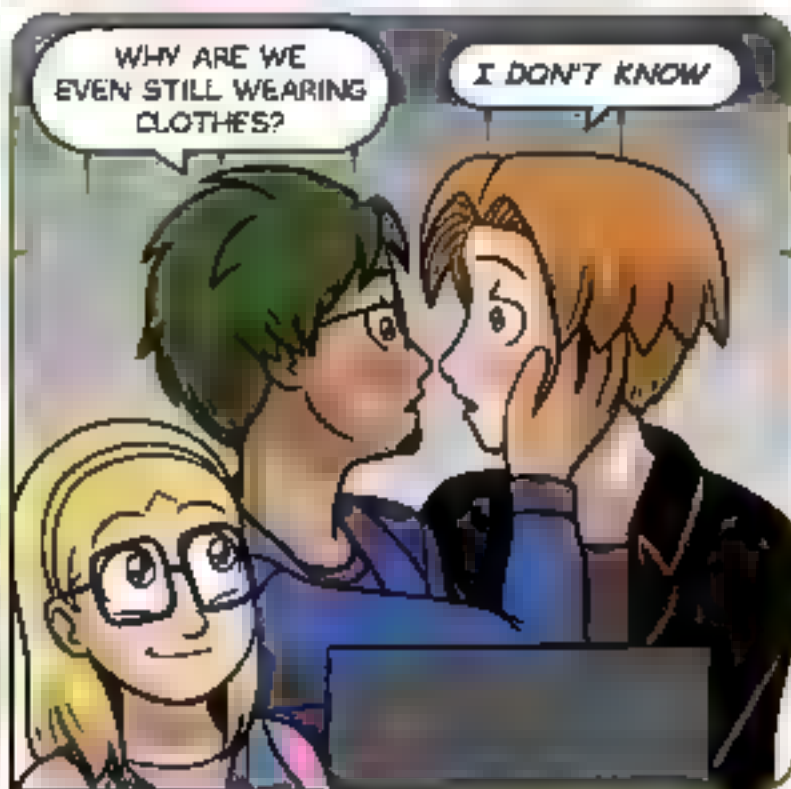
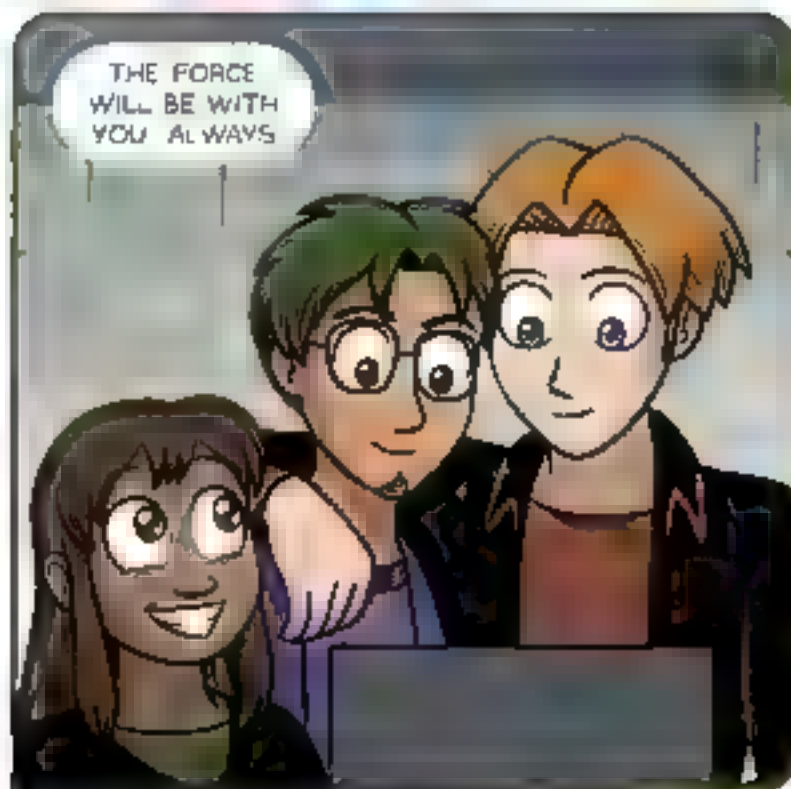
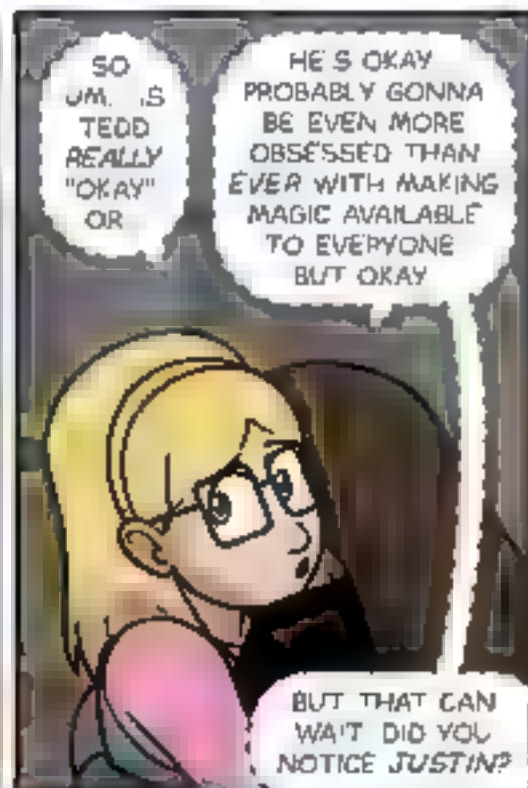
NO NO NO. I'LL TELL
YOU ABOUT IT LATER,
BUT IT'S GOOD SORT
OF IT'S COMPLICATED.

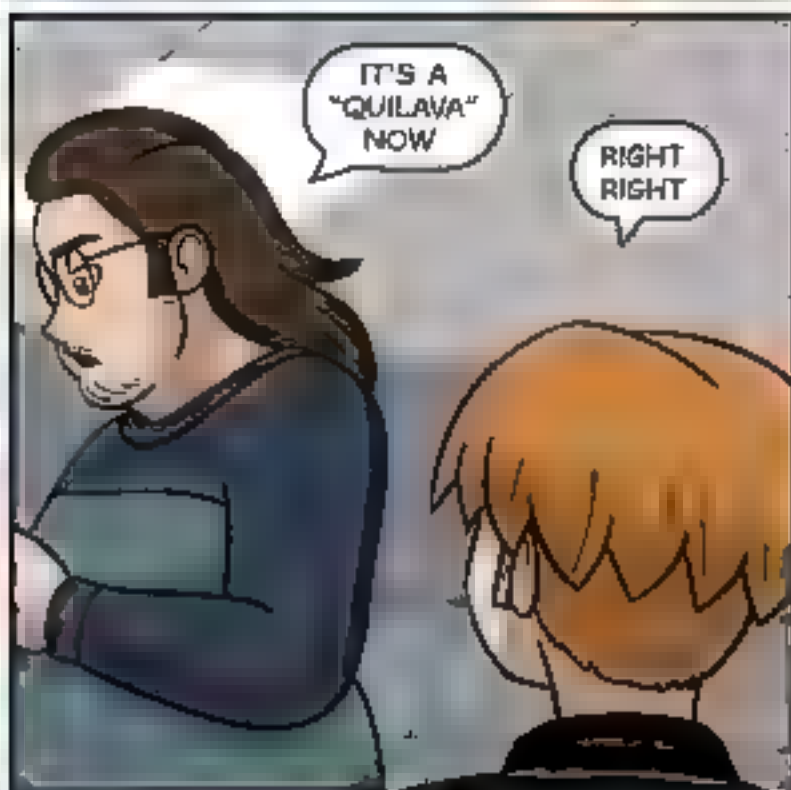
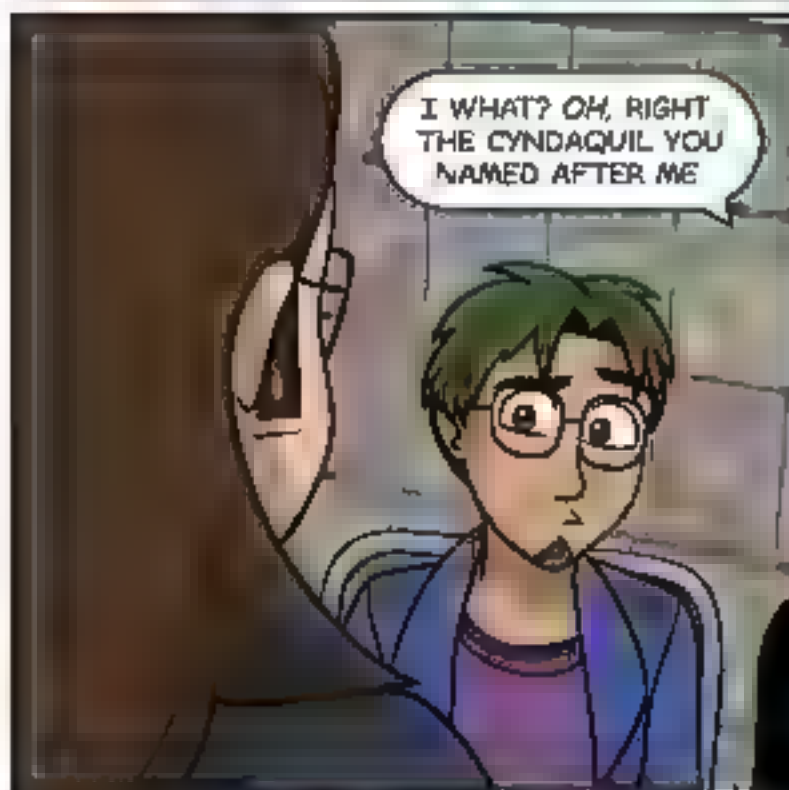
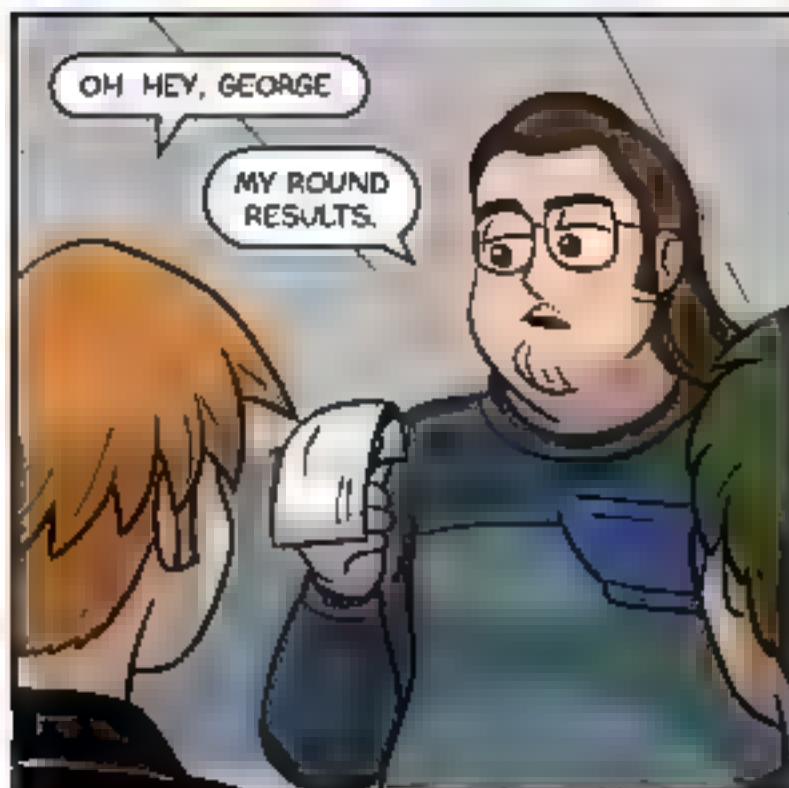
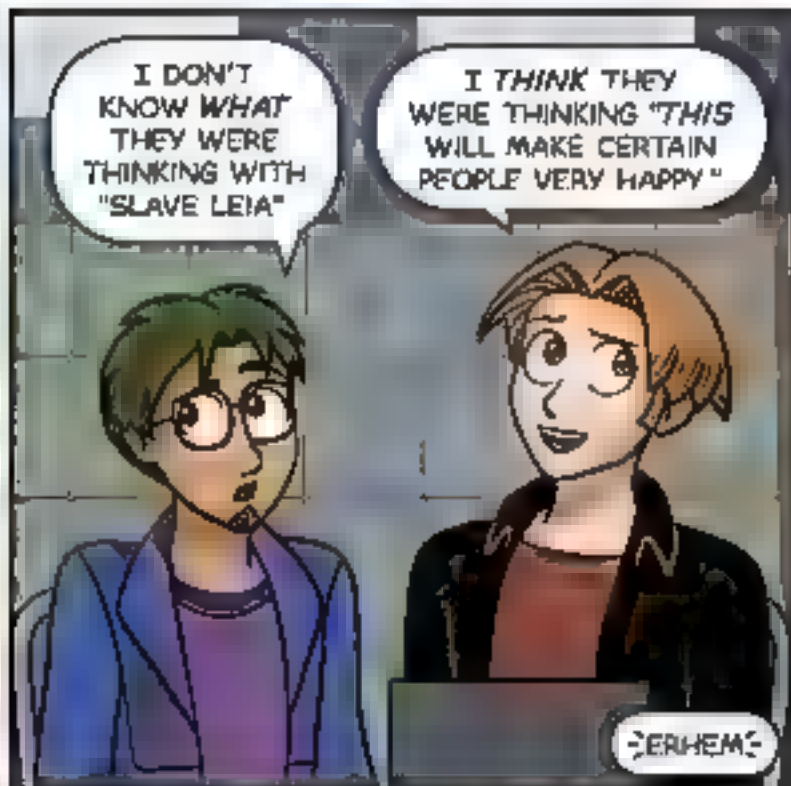
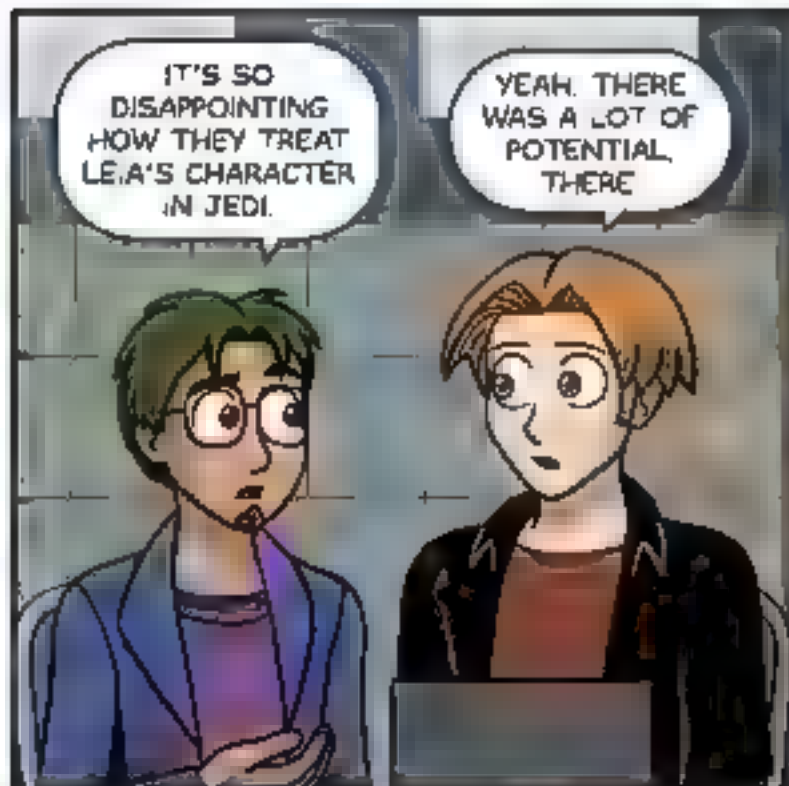


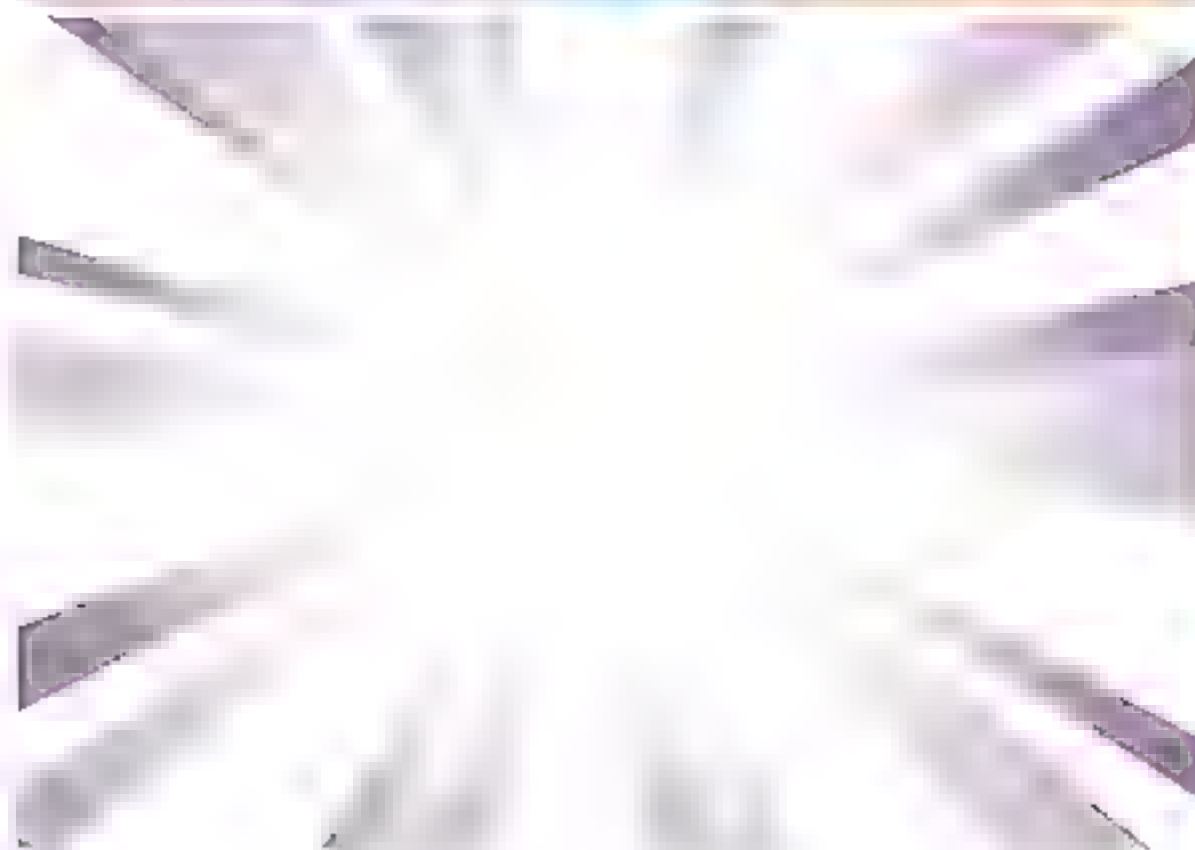
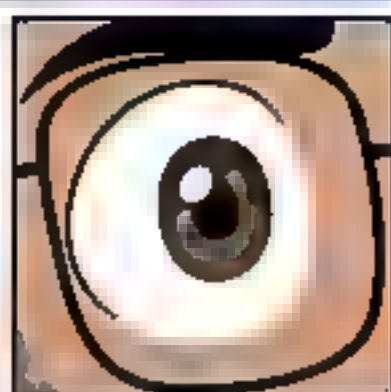
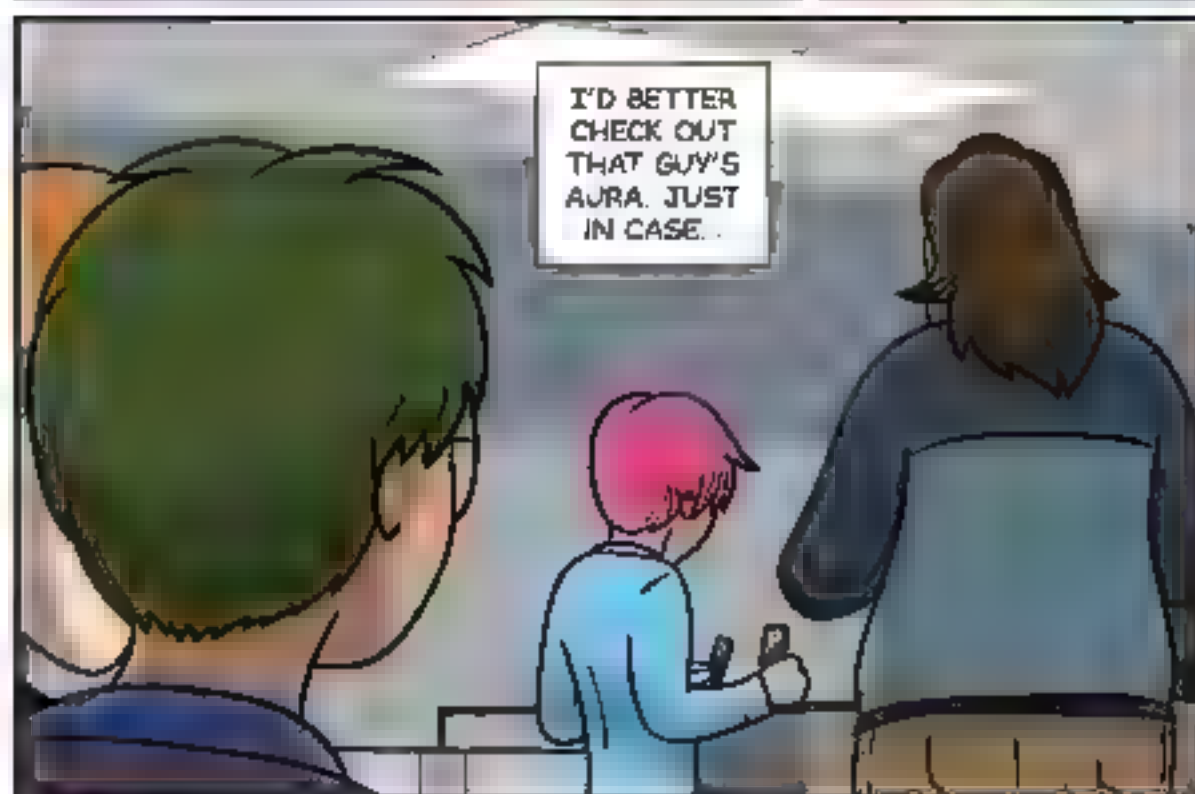
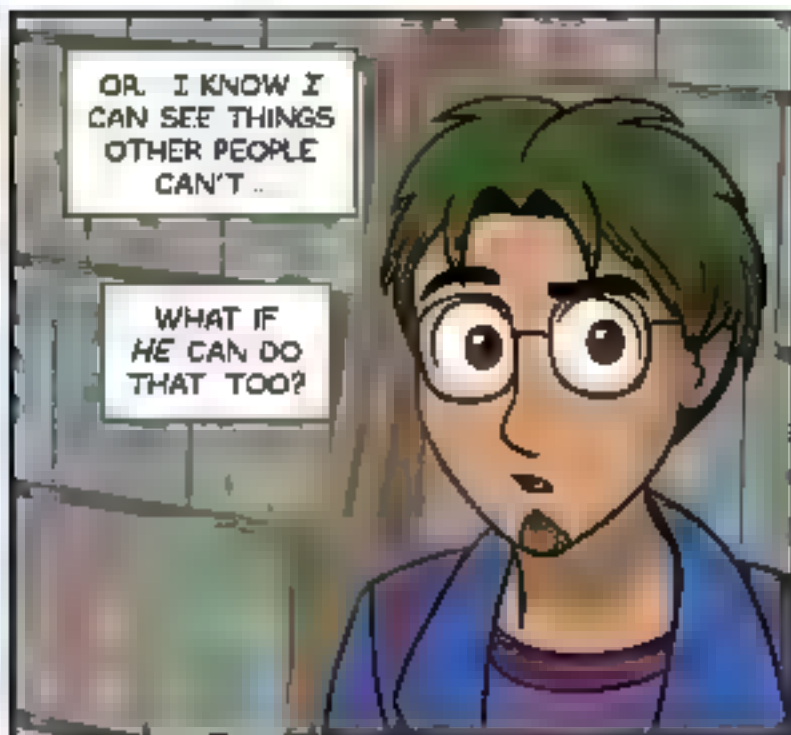
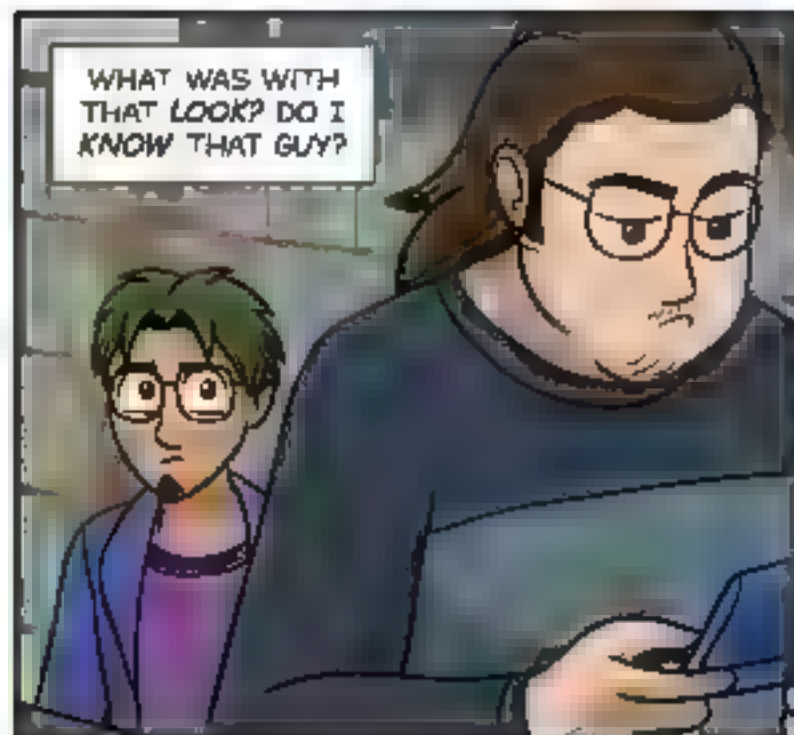
AND
YOU'RE
OKAY?

I'M
GREAT!

I'VE NEVER
WANTED TO BE A
GIRL IN A CUTE
OUTFIT MORE IN
MY ENTIRE LIFE







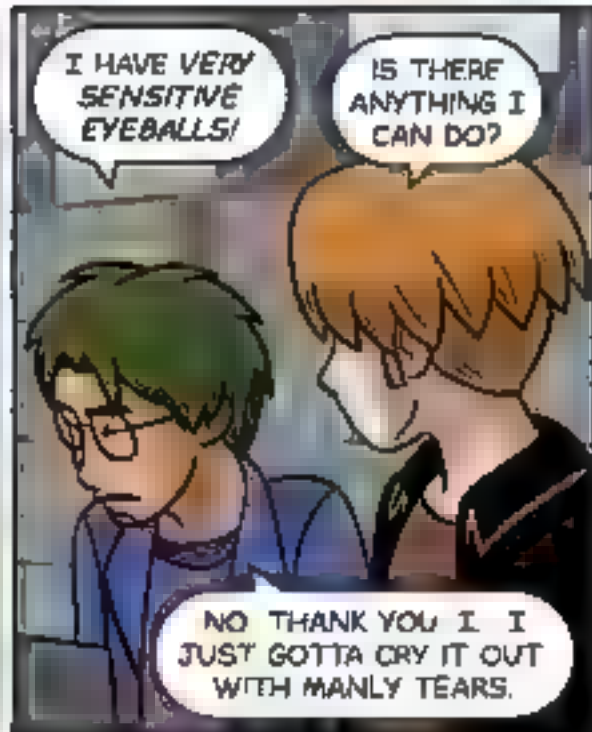


ARE YOU OKAY?



I'M FINE! I JUST I GOT AN EYELASH IN MY EYE!

AN EYELASH?



I HAVE VERY SENSITIVE EYEBALLS!

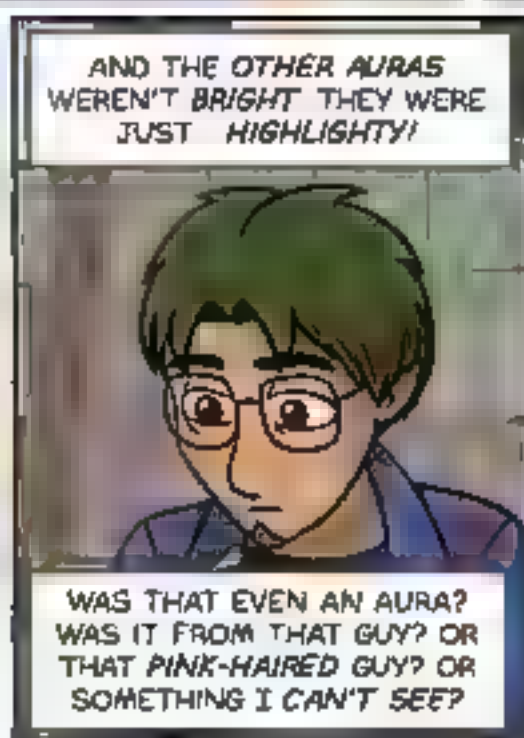
IS THERE ANYTHING I CAN DO?

NO THANK YOU I I JUST GOTTA CRY IT OUT WITH MANLY TEARS.



OKAY NOT BLIND. THAT'S A PLUS.

WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT?! DID MY POWER JUST MALFUNCTION, OR... OR WHAT? IT DIDN'T TELL ME ANYTHING!



AND THE OTHER AURAS WEREN'T BRIGHT THEY WERE JUST HIGHLIGHTY!

WAS THAT EVEN AN AURA? WAS IT FROM THAT GUY? OR THAT PINK-HAIRED GUY? OR SOMETHING I CAN'T SEE?



OH MY GOD WE'RE DEALING WITH MAGIC IT COULD TOTALLY BE SOMETHING I CAN'T SEE



I WARNED YOU NOT TO GAZE UPON MY GRAND GODSON WITH THAT SPELL.

I WARNED YOU IT WOULD NOT WORK PROPERLY.



GRANTED, YOU COULDN'T HEAR ME THEN ANY MORE THAN YOU CAN NOW, AND YOU'D NEVER MET TEDD BUT I DIDN'T TECHNICALLY SAY IT!

WAS IT JUST A ONE TIME GLITCH?
DO I TRY AGAIN? IS THERE AN
INVISIBLE MONSTER? IS THAT TALL
HEAVY GUY A DEMON? WHAT--

HERE
YA GO

THANKS. WELL,
THAT'S IT FOR
THIS ROUND

THE
ROUND'S
OVER?!

YEP JUST GOTTA
FINISH INPUTTING
THE RESULTS AND
GET PAIRINGS.

ARE YOUR
EYES DOING
BETTER?

Y YES.
THANKS FOR
ASKING.

SO JH. YOUR
CO-WORKER!
DOES SHE LIKE
STAR WARS?

GRACE? SHE
WELL.. SHE LIKES
SOME OF THE
QUOTES..

AND YODA!
SHE DEFINITELY
LIKES YODA.

I SPENT THE WHOLE ROUND TALKING
ABOUT *STAR WARS*?! I'M THE WORST
SCOUT EVER! I DIDN'T EVEN FIND
OUT ANYTHING ABOUT THAT GIRL!

...BUT I *KNEW*
HE HAD A CANCEL
SPELL. SO I SENT
OUT A DECOY!

YOU HAVE DONE
WELL, PADAWAN.

PADA WHAT?

GRASSHOPPER?

PADAWANS ARE
GRASSHOPPERS?

SURE

ROUND THREE PAIRINGS ARE UP!

I GUESS IT'S GO TIME.

YOU STILL FEEL LIKE PLAYING, RIGHT?

OH SURE I'M A LITTLE MAJORLY DISTRACTED, BUT... CAN I ASK YOU SOMETHING?

OF COURSE!

WHY DO YOU KNOW ABOUT TRANS-GENDER STUFF? DID YOU LOOK IT UP BECAUSE OF ME?

OH NO I FIND WANTING TO CHANGE FORMS TOTALLY NORMAL IT NEVER WOULD'VE OCCURRED TO ME

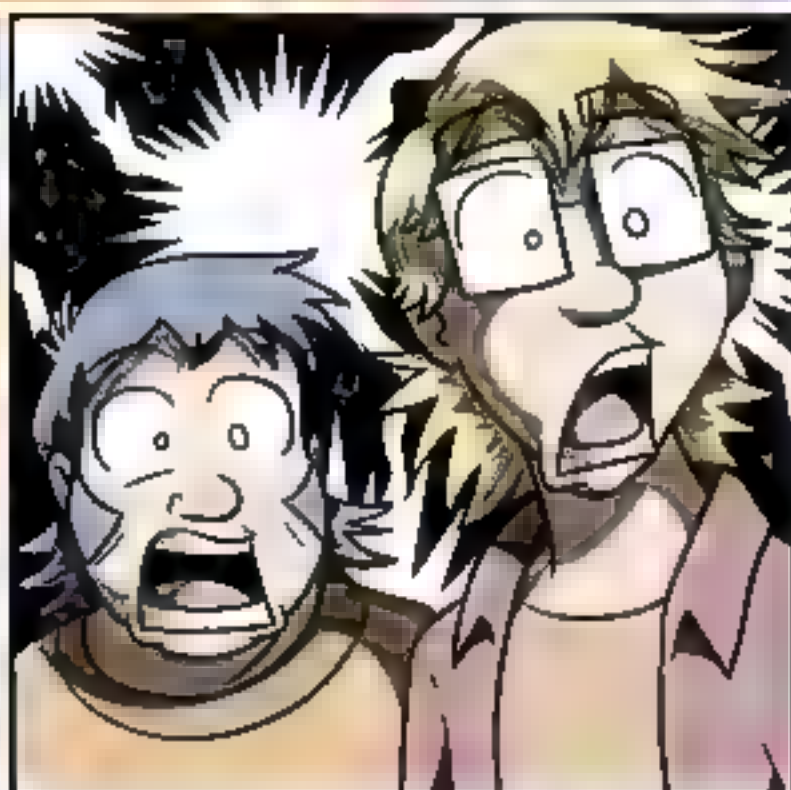
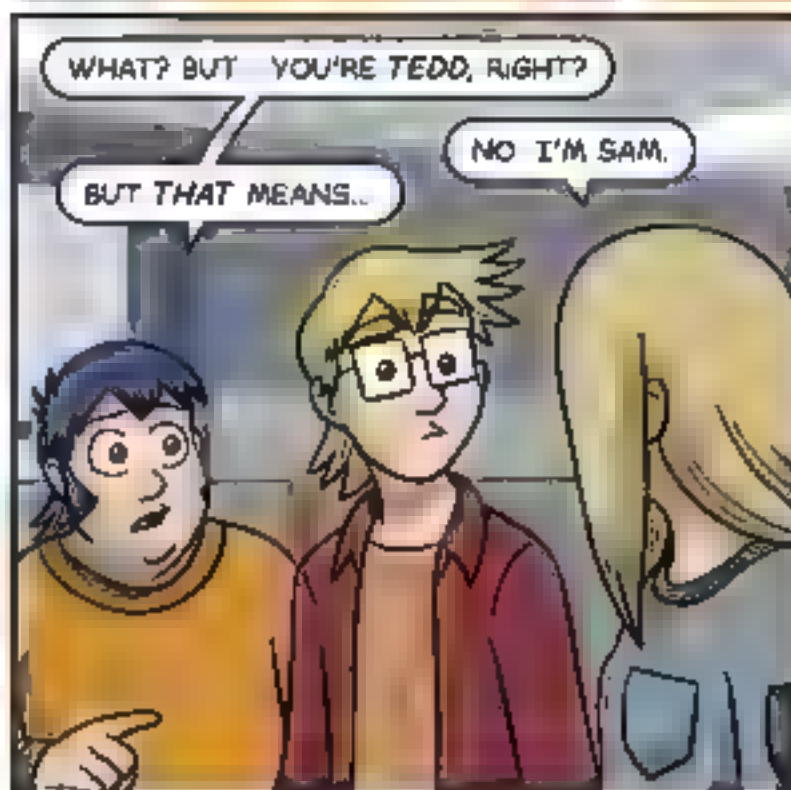
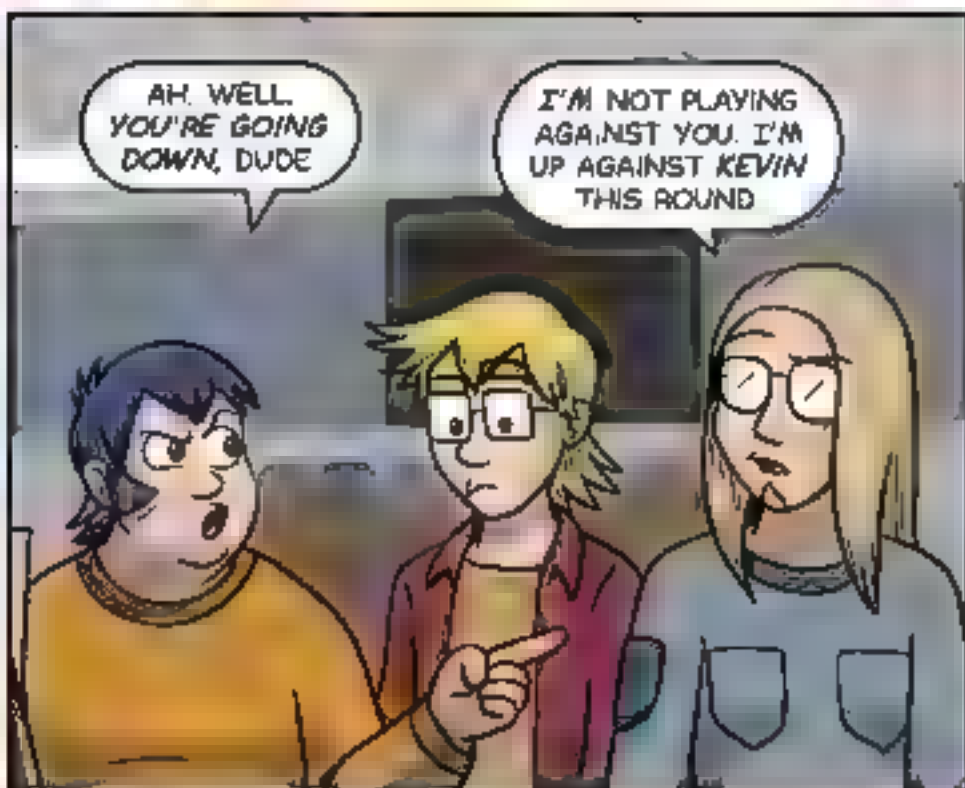
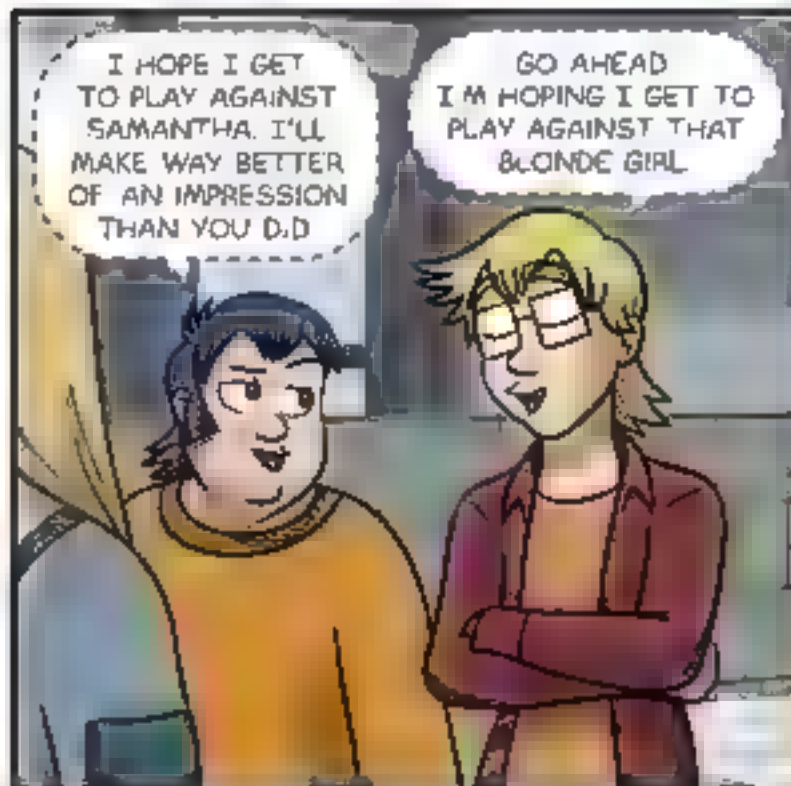
WAS THERE SOME OTHER REASON?

WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT?

OH! UH, I'M SORRY! I DIDN'T MEAN TO STARE

IT'S JUST I THOUGHT ONLY BOYS COULD GROW BEARMPH?

OH YOU KNOW THE USUAL REASON I WIND UP LOOKING STUFF UP



IT'S NEVER GOING TO HAPPEN, TEDD. YOU NEED TO ACCEPT THAT



NEVER!

SEE, THIS IS THE OPPOSITE OF WHAT NEEDS TO HAPPEN.



DAD, IF PEOPLE KNEW ABOUT MAGIC AND HOW IT WORKS...



THE COLLEGE KIDS AT THAT PARTY *STILL* WOULD HAVE BEEN POWERLESS TO STOP A SNEAK ATTACK. AND THERE WOULD BE COUNTLESS *OTHER* THREATS TO WORRY ABOUT



BUT THE AMOUNT OF *GOOD* THAT--



WE'RE TALKING ABOUT A MAGIC SYSTEM THAT REFLECTS THE PEOPLE WHO USE IT!



WHAT SORT OF PEOPLE DO YOU THINK ARE GOING TO WIND UP WITH THE *MOST DANGEROUS* AND *VIOLENT* MAGIC?!

ELLIOT HAS A FREAKING *SUPERHEROINE* SPELL!

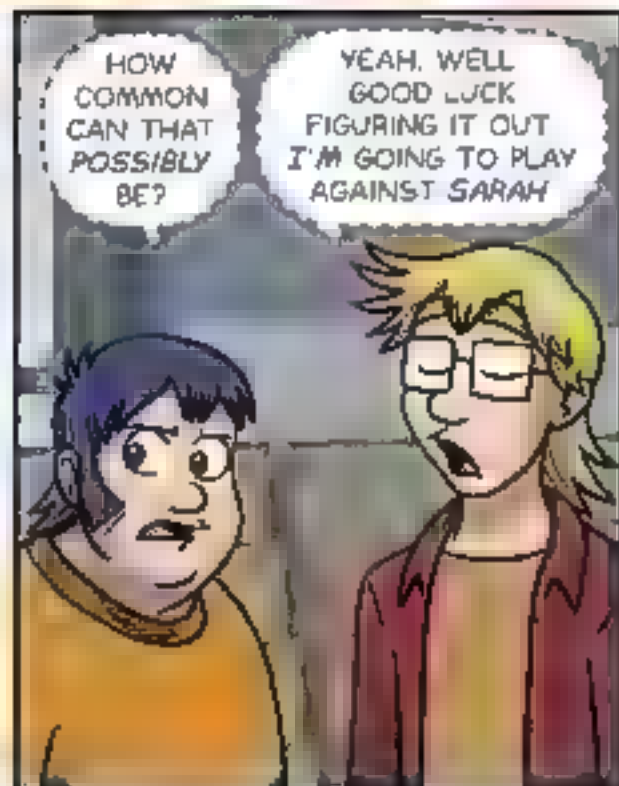
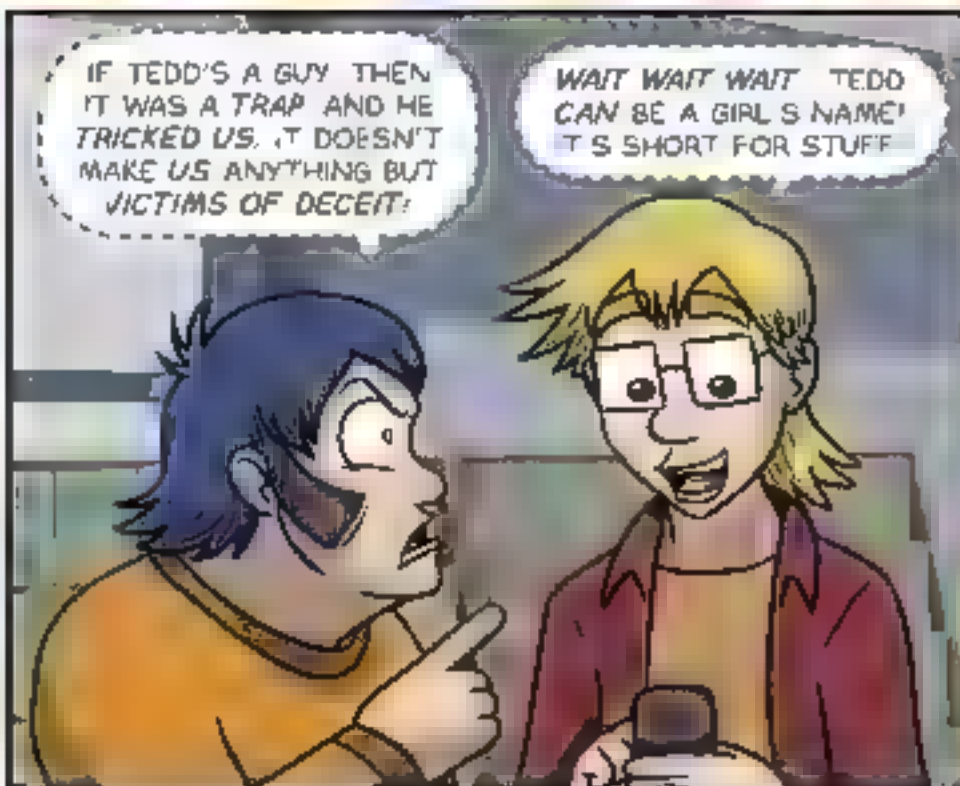


EXCEPTIONS DO NOT MAKE THE RULE. AND ELLIOT IS A *RARE* EXCEPTION!

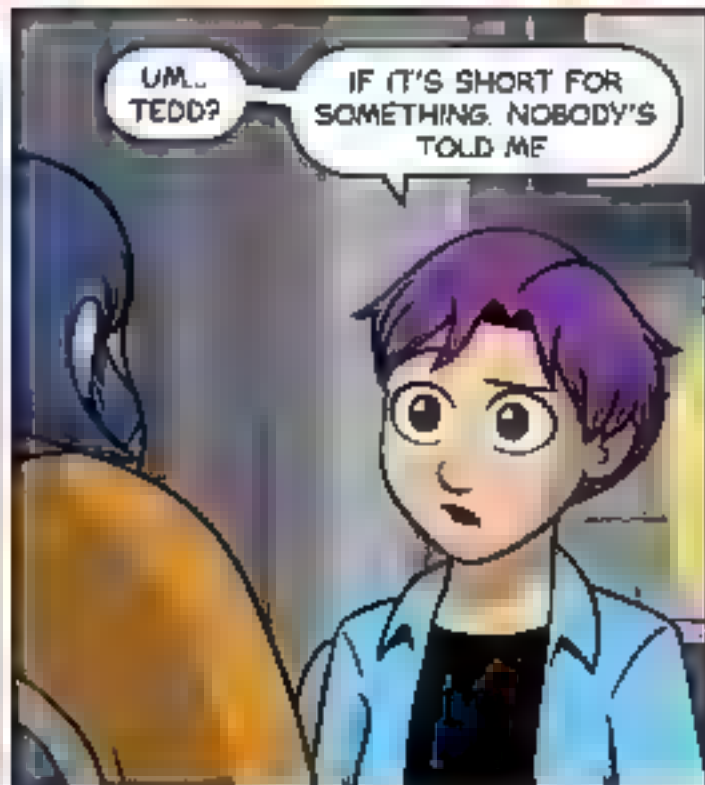


SERIOUSLY, THAT KID'S *RIDICULOUS*. I THINK HE WAS BORN WEARING A SCOUT'S UNIFORM OR SOMETHING





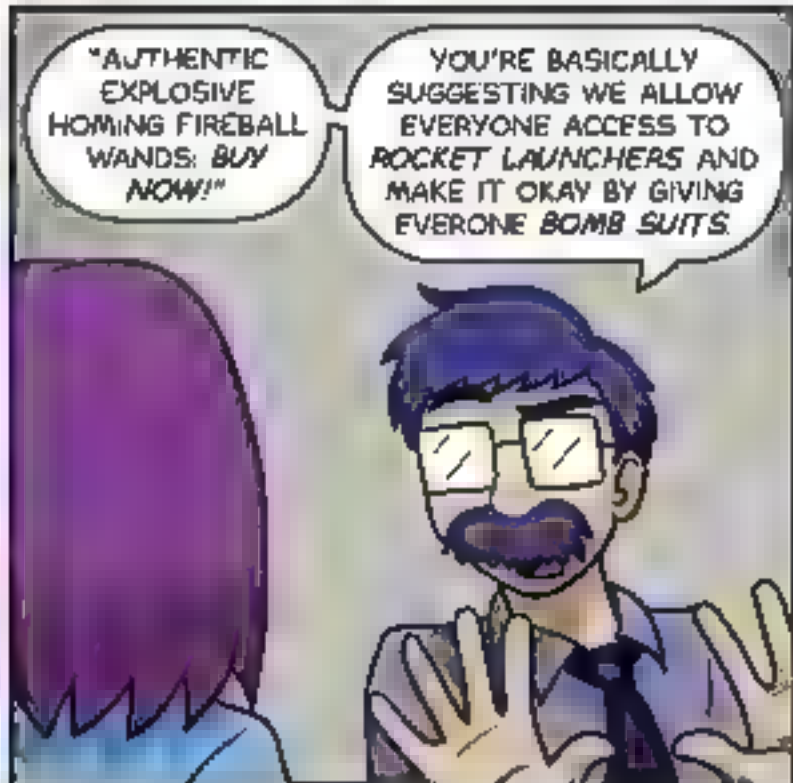
Soon (as opposed to instantaneously)





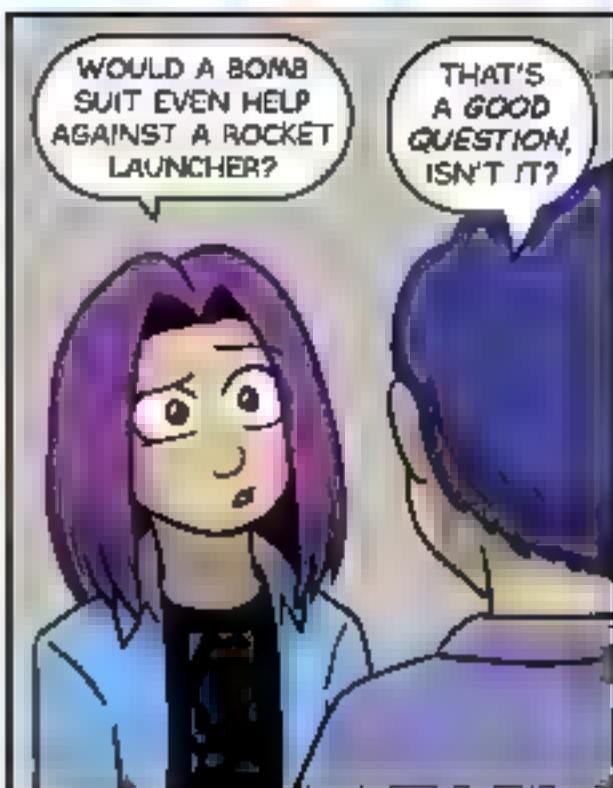
I'M NOT GOING TO ARGUE THAT MAGIC WOULDN'T BE ABUSED. BUT THAT'S ALREADY HAPPENING!

IF PEOPLE KNEW ABOUT IT WANDS WITH PROTECTIVE SPELLS COULD BE SOLD IN STORES!



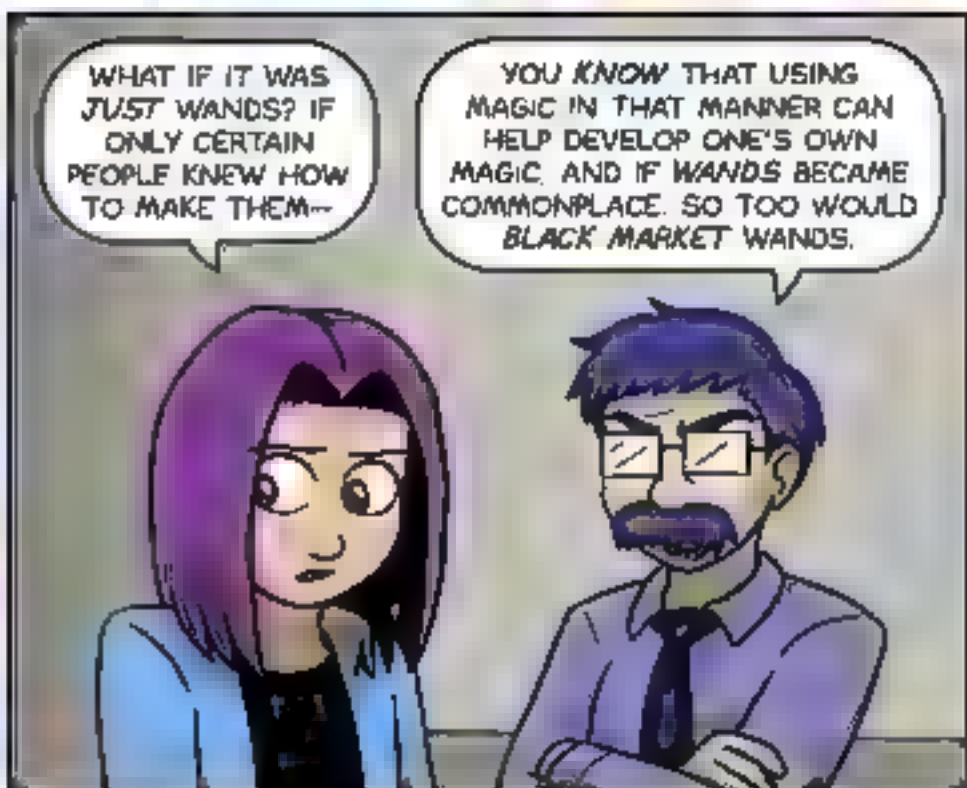
"AUTHENTIC EXPLOSIVE HOMING FIREBALL WANDS: BUY NOW!"

YOU'RE BASICALLY SUGGESTING WE ALLOW EVERYONE ACCESS TO ROCKET LAUNCHERS AND MAKE IT OKAY BY GIVING EVERYONE BOMB SUITS.



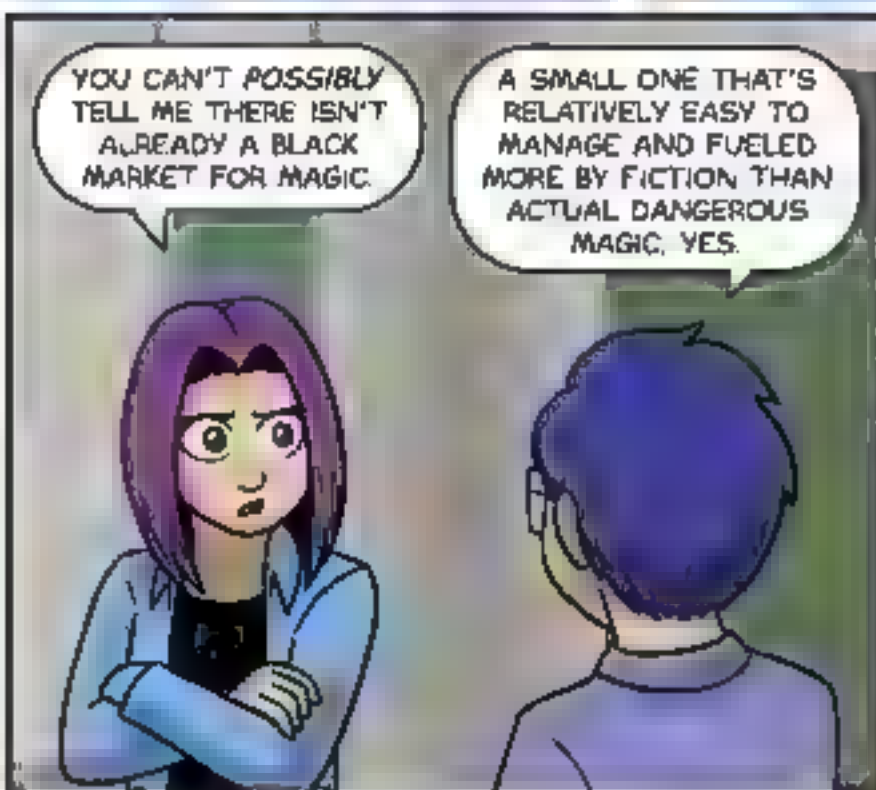
WOULD A BOMB SUIT EVEN HELP AGAINST A ROCKET LAUNCHER?

THAT'S A GOOD QUESTION, ISN'T IT?



WHAT IF IT WAS JUST WANDS? IF ONLY CERTAIN PEOPLE KNEW HOW TO MAKE THEM--

YOU KNOW THAT USING MAGIC IN THAT MANNER CAN HELP DEVELOP ONE'S OWN MAGIC. AND IF WANDS BECAME COMMONPLACE, SO TOO WOULD BLACK MARKET WANDS.



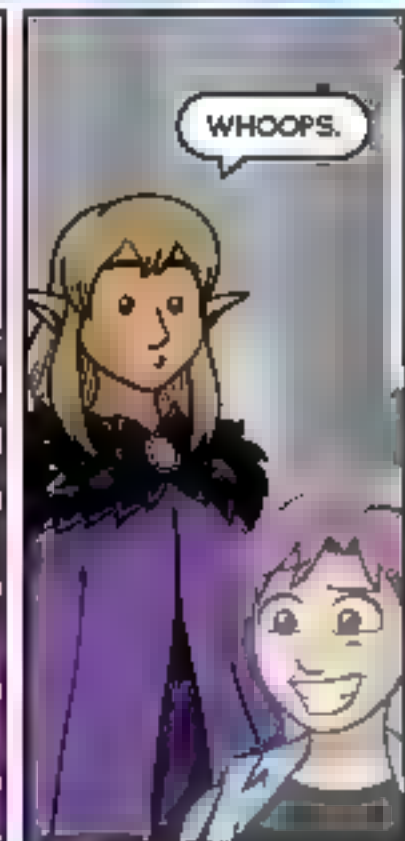
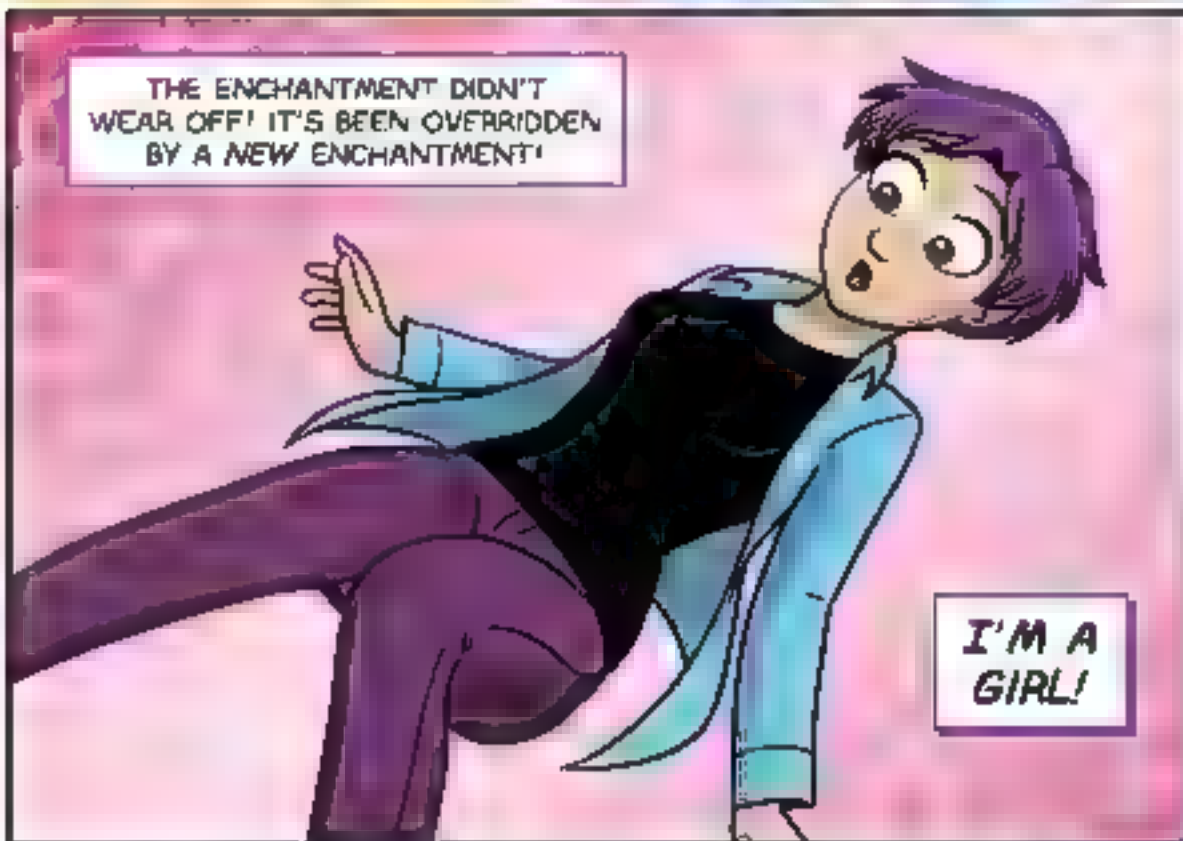
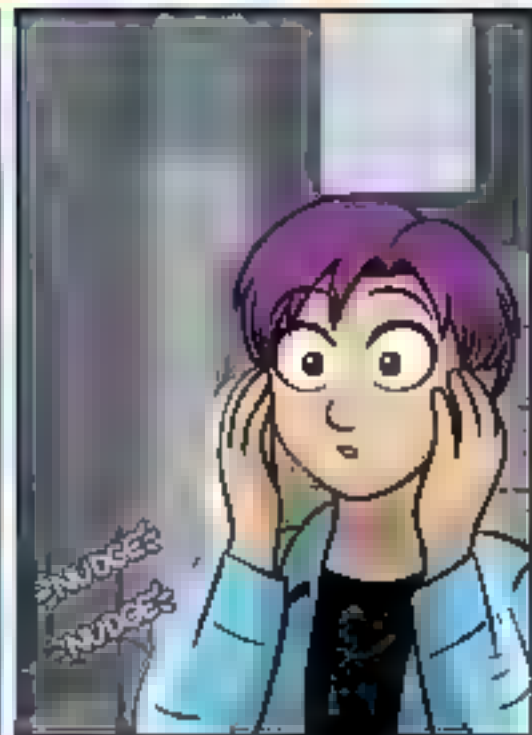
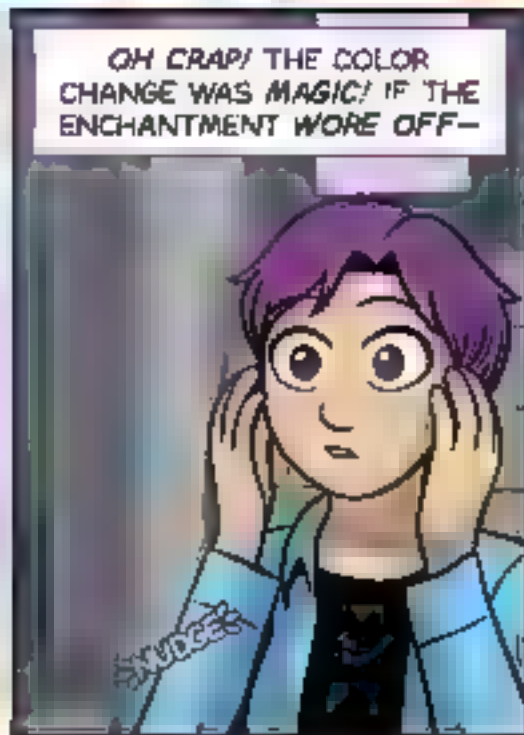
YOU CAN'T POSSIBLY TELL ME THERE ISN'T ALREADY A BLACK MARKET FOR MAGIC.

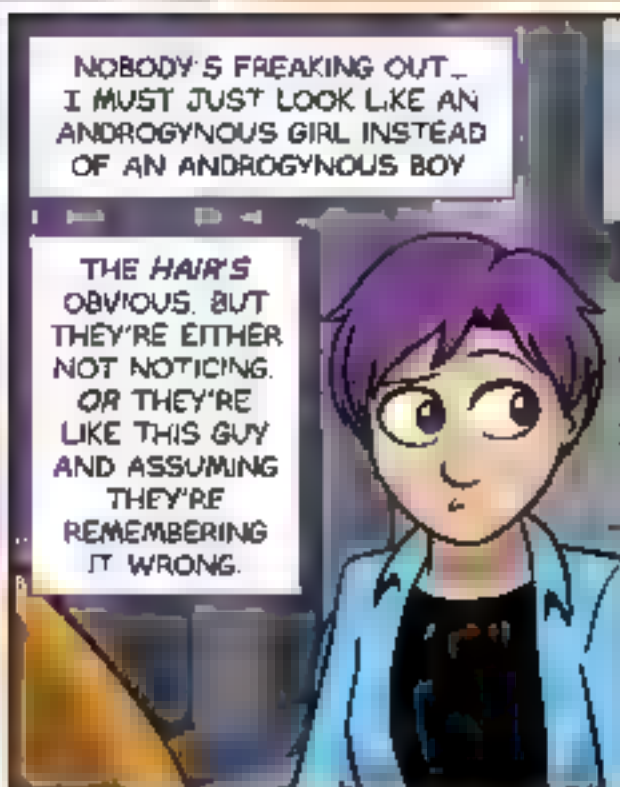
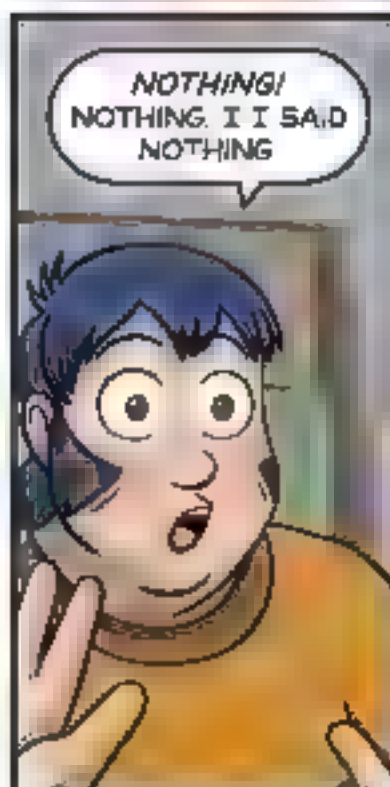
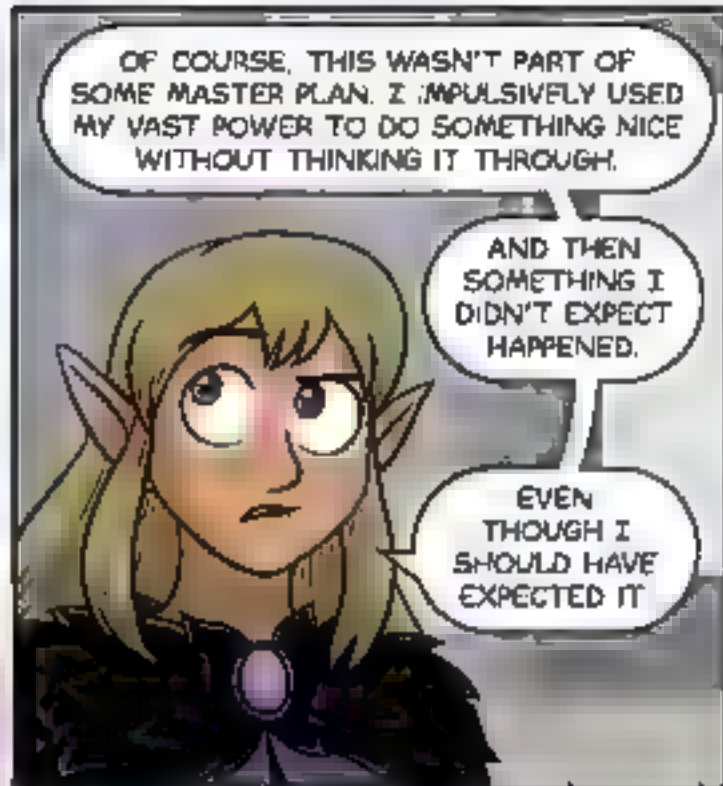
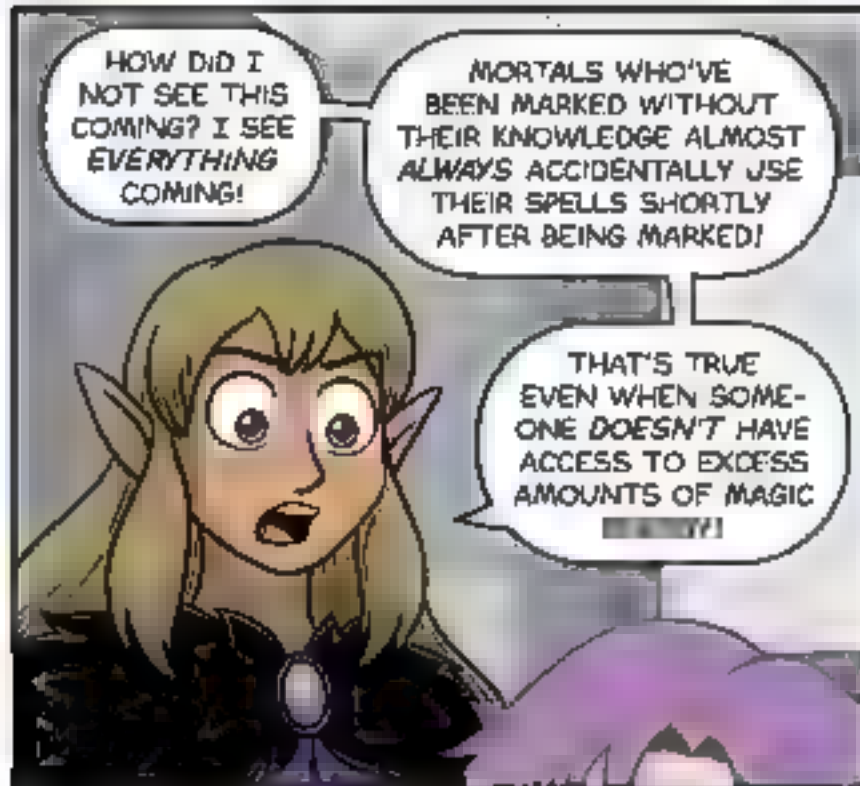
A SMALL ONE THAT'S RELATIVELY EASY TO MANAGE AND FUELED MORE BY FICTION THAN ACTUAL DANGEROUS MAGIC. YES.




I'M SORRY, TEDD, BUT THIS IS HOW IT HAS TO BE

THERE'S NO WAY TO GIVE MAGIC TO EVERYONE WITHOUT CATASTROPHIC CONSEQUENCES.







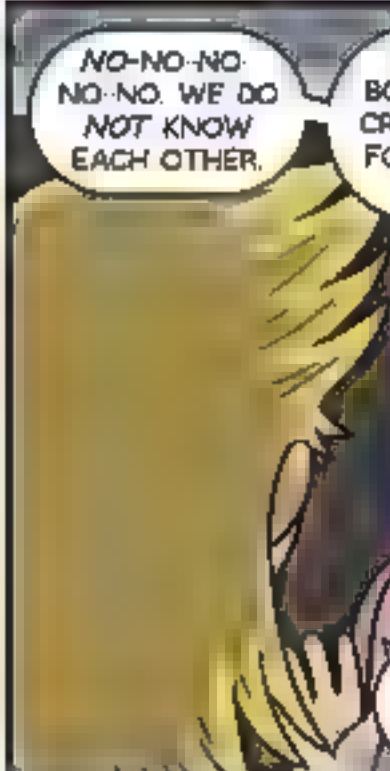
SO... DO YOU
PLAY CARD GAMES
OFTEN?



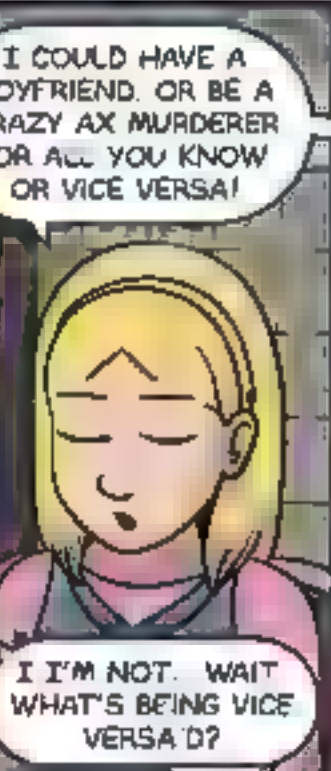
ARE YOU
HITTING ON
ME?



UHHH.




NO-NO-NO.
NO-NO. WE DO
NOT KNOW
EACH OTHER.




I COULD HAVE A
BOYFRIEND. OR BE A
CRAZY AX MURDERER
FOR ALL YOU KNOW
OR VICE VERSA!


I I'M NOT. WAIT
WHAT'S BEING VICE
VERSA'D?



THIS ISN'T A SINGLES
BAR. THIS IS A COMIC
SHOP, AND WE'RE
ABOUT TO PLAY AT
LEAST TWO CARD
GAMES TOGETHER.



IT'S A PERFECT
OPPORTUNITY TO GET
TO KNOW EACH OTHER
A LITTLE BETTER WHILE
BEING RESPECTFUL OF
EACH OTHER.



I I DIDN'T MEAN
ANY DISRESPECT, I.
SORRY YEAH. CARD
GAMES RESPECT
SOUNDS GOOD.



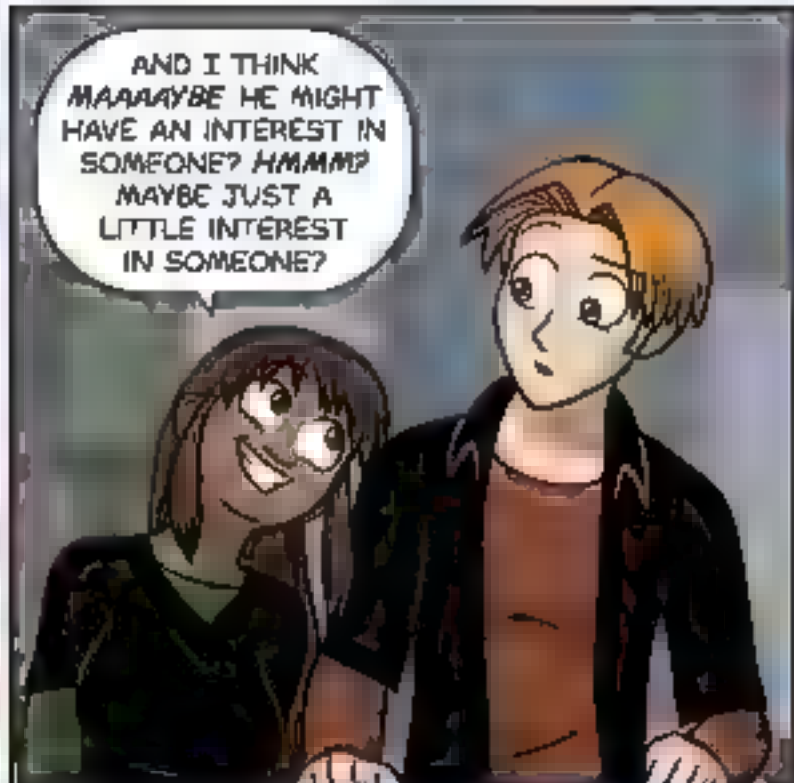
AND DON'T
YOU DARE LET ME
WIN. THAT'S NOT
RESPECTFUL.

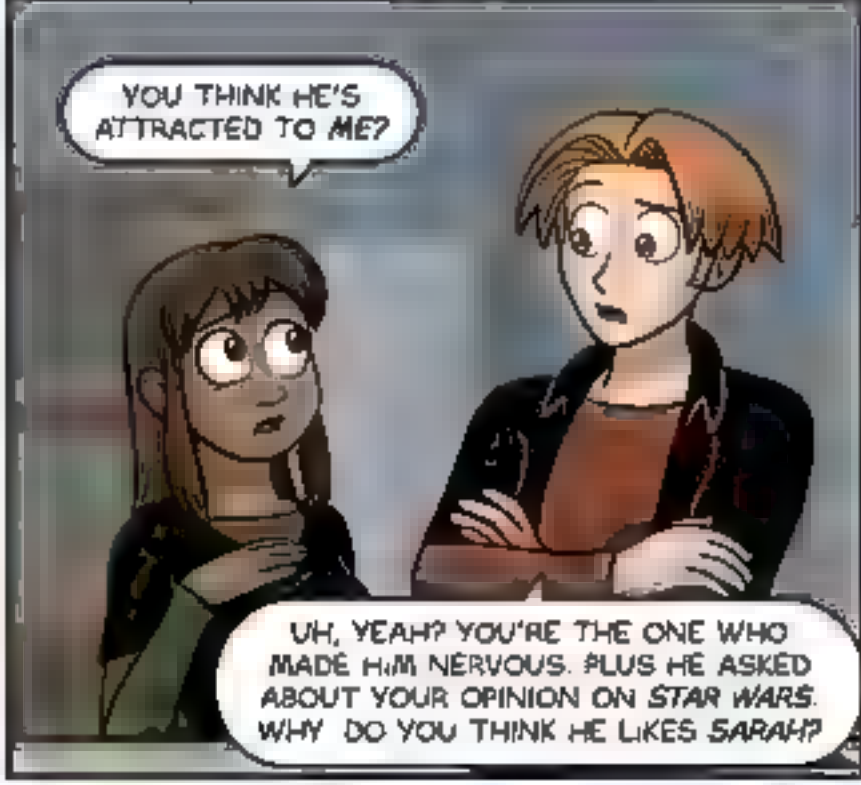


IT'S NOT?



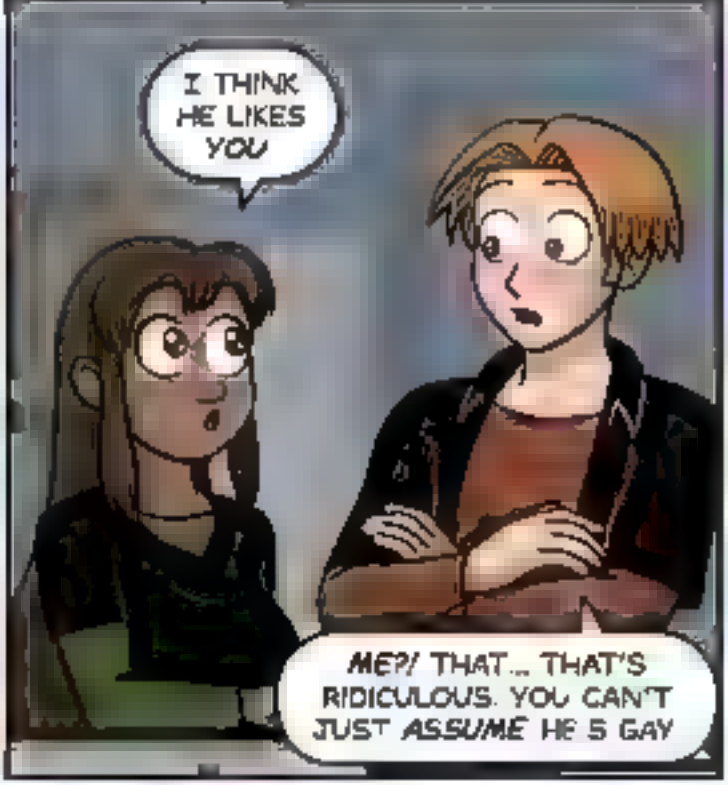
YES'M.





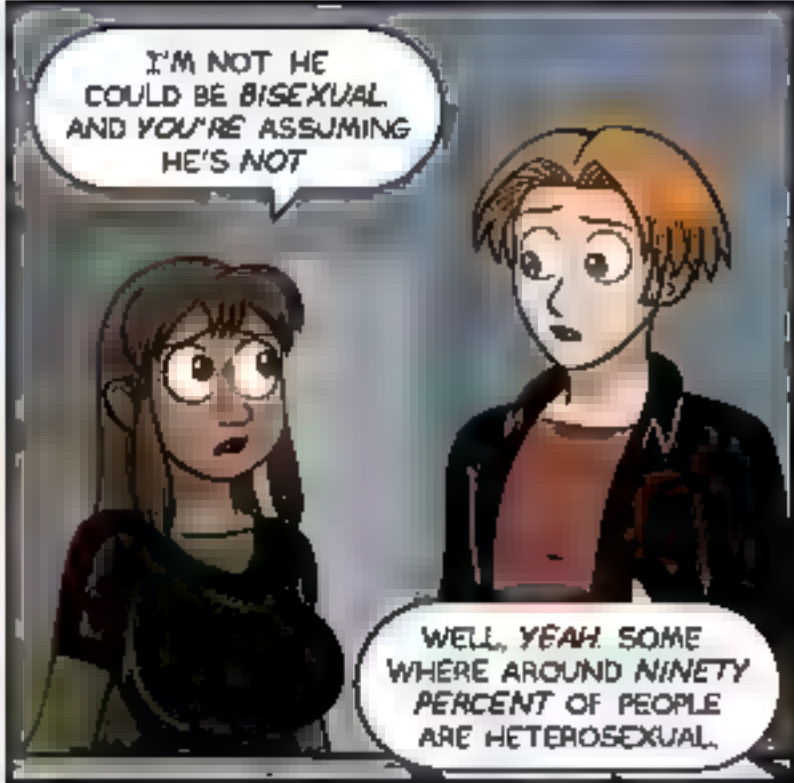
YOU THINK HE'S
ATTRACTED TO ME?

UH, YEAH? YOU'RE THE ONE WHO
MADE HIM NERVOUS. PLUS HE ASKED
ABOUT YOUR OPINION ON STAR WARS.
WHY DO YOU THINK HE LIKES SARAH?




I THINK
HE LIKES
YOU

ME?! THAT... THAT'S
RIDICULOUS. YOU CAN'T
JUST ASSUME HE'S GAY

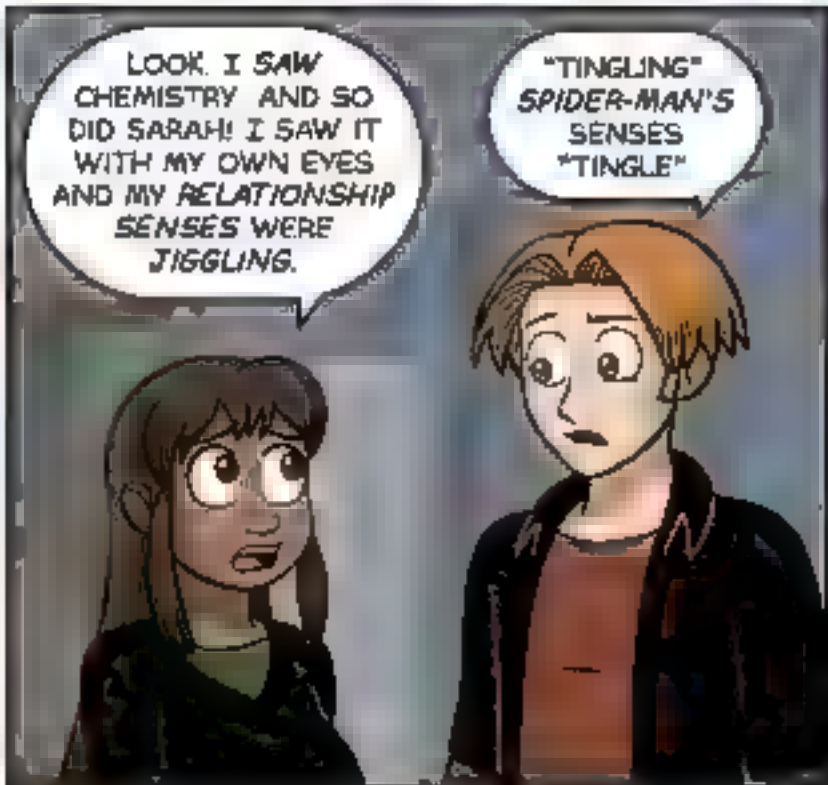


I'M NOT HE
COULD BE BISEXUAL
AND YOU'RE ASSUMING
HE'S NOT

WELL, YEAH. SOME
WHERE AROUND NINETY
PERCENT OF PEOPLE
ARE HETEROSEXUAL.

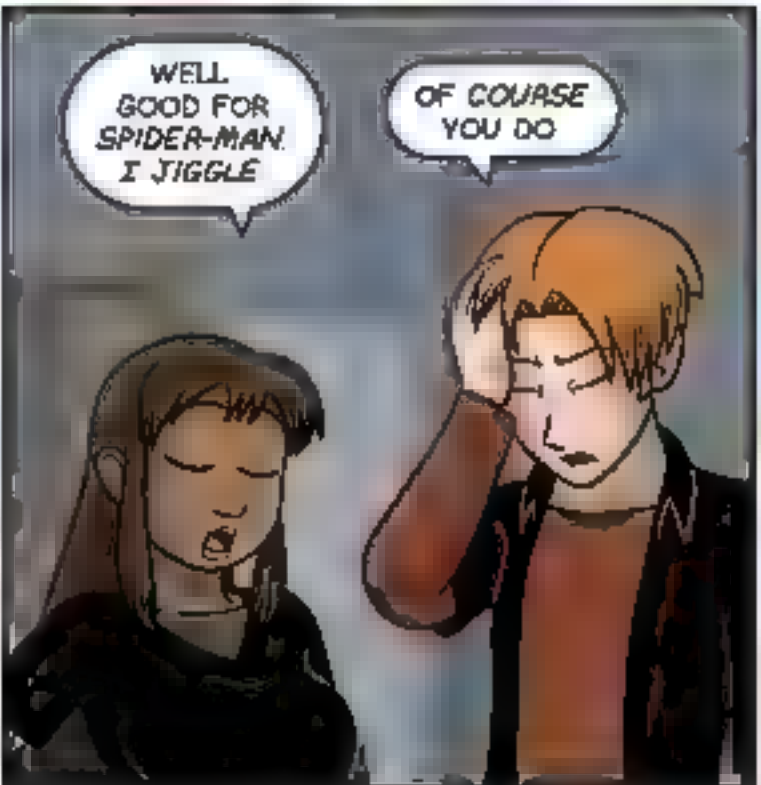


THAT CAN'T
POSSIBLY BE
RIGHT



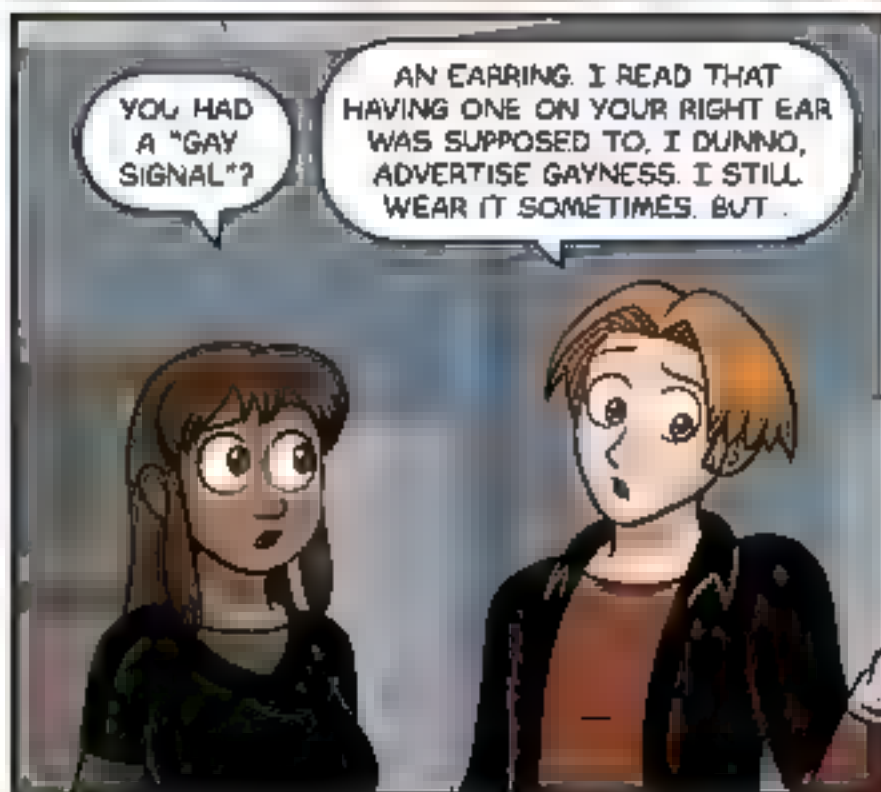
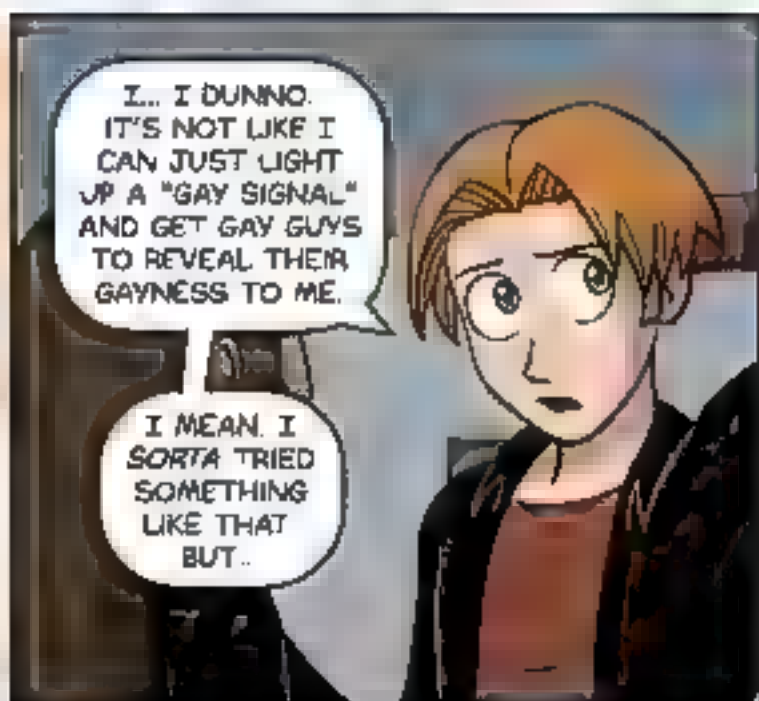
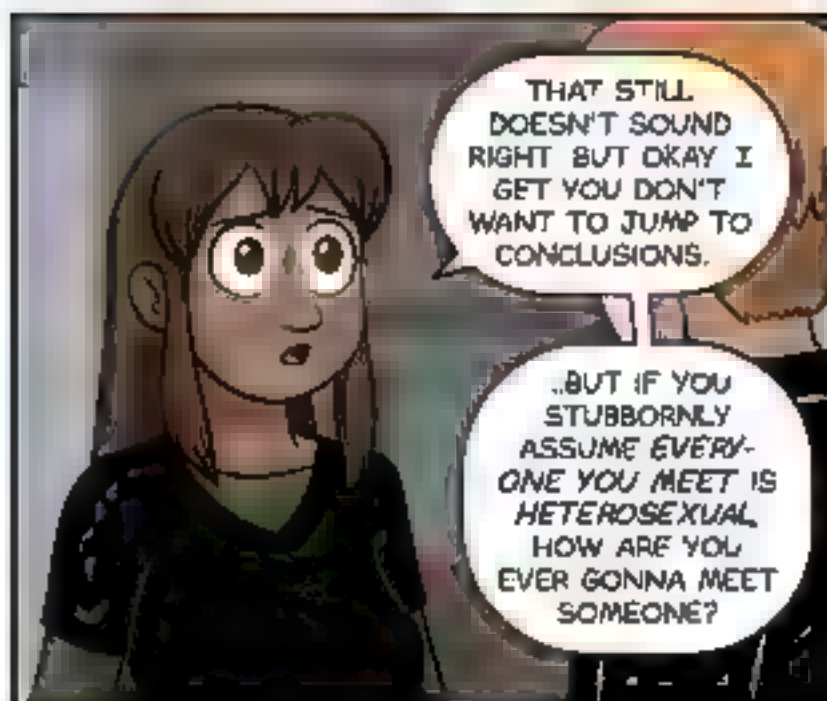
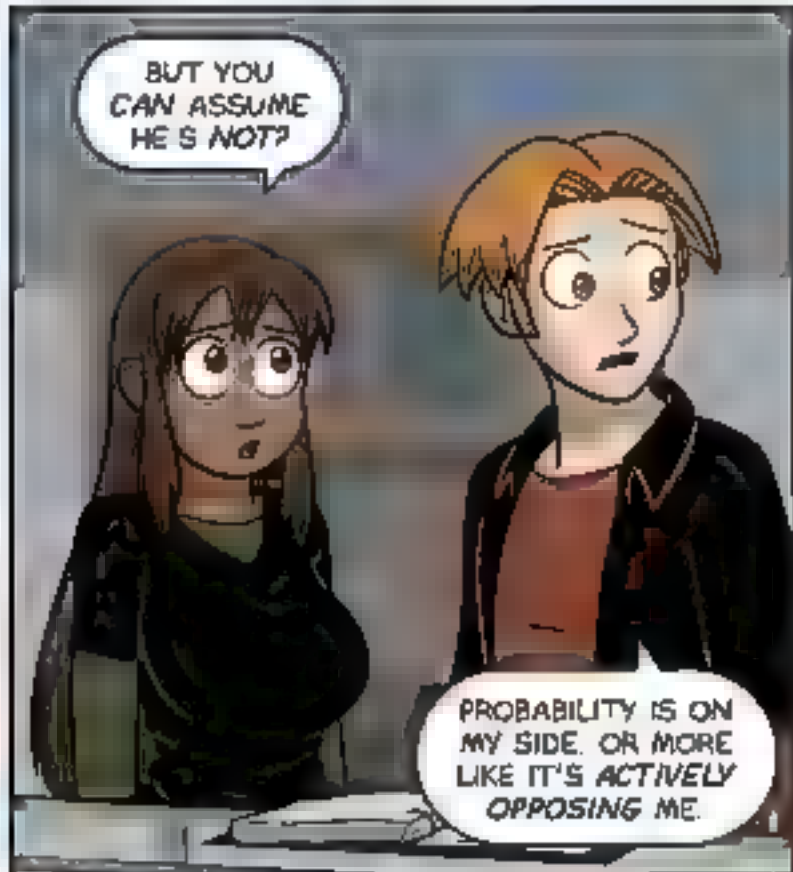
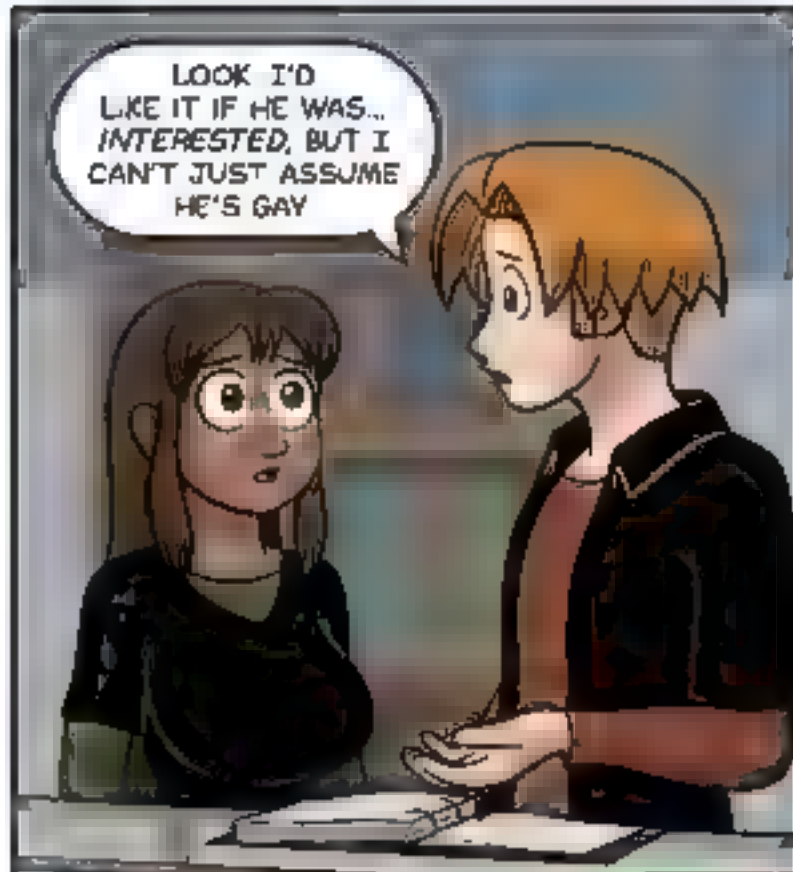
LOOK, I SAW
CHEMISTRY AND SO
DID SARAH! I SAW IT
WITH MY OWN EYES
AND MY RELATIONSHIP
SENSES WERE
JIGGLING.

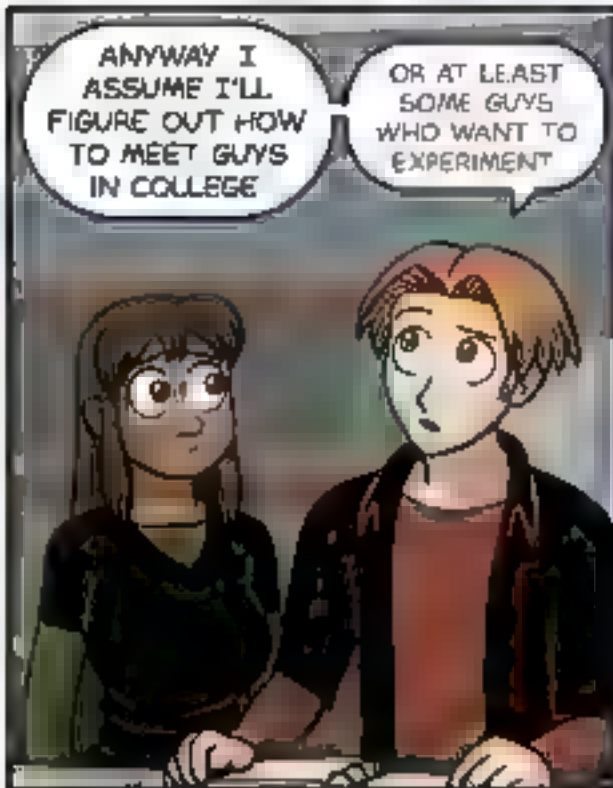
"TINGLING"
SPIDER-MAN'S
SENSES
"TINGLE"



WELL
GOOD FOR
SPIDER-MAN.
I JIGGLE

OF COURSE
YOU DO





ANYWAY I
ASSUME I'LL
FIGURE OUT HOW
TO MEET GUYS
IN COLLEGE

OR AT LEAST
SOME GUYS
WHO WANT TO
EXPERIMENT



THERE IS A GUY RIGHT
HERE, RIGHT NOW, WHO
(THEORETICALLY) WANTS
YOUR MAN HUGS

I HEARD THAT
"THEORETICALLY"

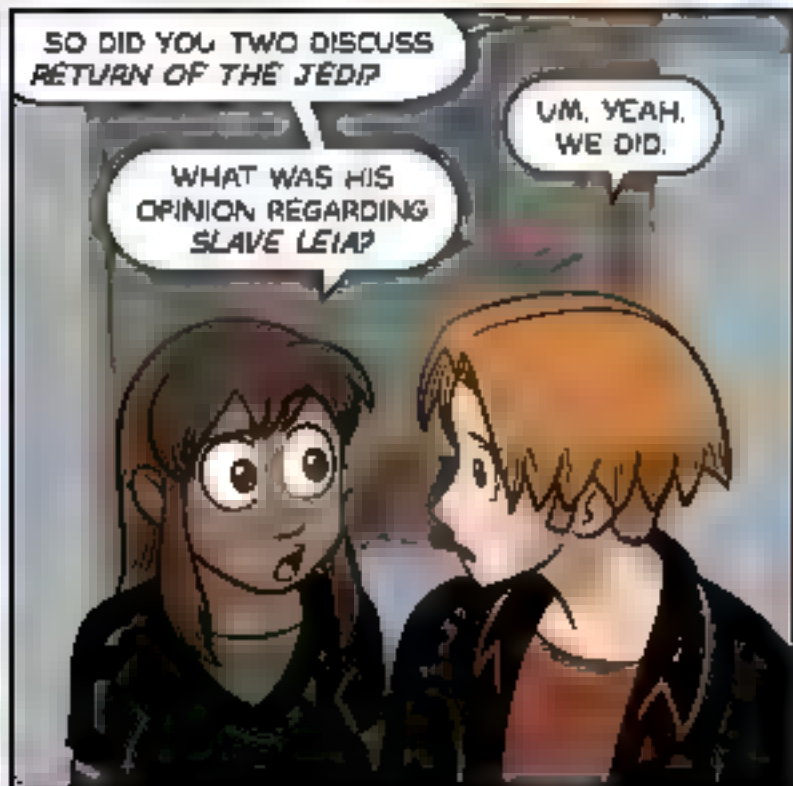


OKAY LOOK, YOU GUYS WERE TALKING
ABOUT STAR WARS, RIGHT?

NO BUT WHAT
ELSE WOULD YOU
TALK ABOUT?

WERE YOU
EAVESDROPPING?

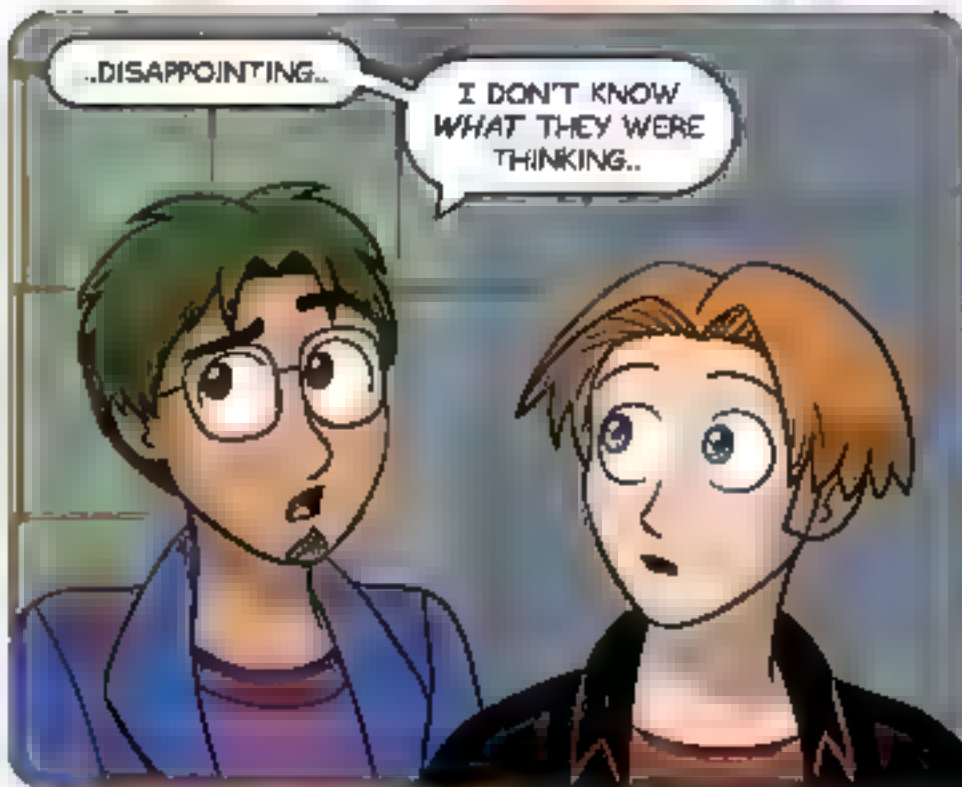
STAR
TREK?



SO DID YOU TWO DISCUSS
RETURN OF THE JEDI?

WHAT WAS HIS
OPINION REGARDING
SLAVE LEIA?

UM, YEAH,
WE DID.



..DISAPPOINTING..

I DON'T KNOW
WHAT THEY WERE
THINKING..



OH MY
GOD HE'S
GAY

SO, YOU
GONNA ASK
HIM OUT?

ASK HIM OUT? I
CAN'T JUST ASK
HIM OUT WHAT IF
HE'S NOT "OUT"?
OR DOESN'T REALIZE
HE'S GAY? OR HE'S
DATING SOMEONE?

OR WHAT IF
WE'RE WRONG? THERE
COULD BE STRAIGHT
GUYS WHO DON'T LIKE
SLAVE LEIA!

WAIT A MINUTE
AFTER EVERYTHING
WE'VE SEEN...

I MEAN THERE
COULD ALSO BE BIG
FOOT, BUT...

OH MY GOD BIG
FOOT IS REAL

OKAY YOU'RE
A LITTLE BIT
FREAKING OUT
RIGHT NOW

WELL, OF COURSE I
AM. YOU'RE TELLING ME
THERE'S A GUY HERE I LIKE
WHO MIGHT ACTUALLY
LIKE ME BACK!

SO
ROMANCE
TIME?

I CAN'T JUST ASK HIM
OUT! I TOLD YOU, IT'S
NOT THAT SIMPLE!

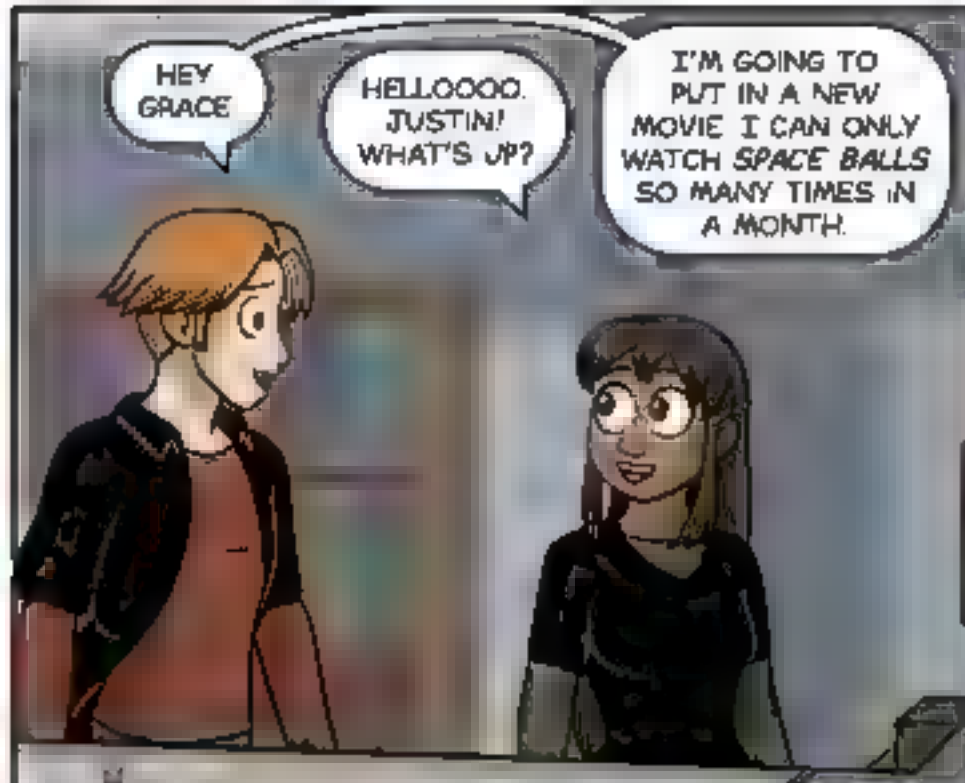
WHY
NOT? THE
WORST HE
COULD DO IS
SAY NO.

OR FREAK OUT AND
QUIT THE TOURNAMENT AND
NEVER COME BACK NO NO
NO I JUST MET HIM. I'M
NOT SCARING HIM AWAY

SO WHAT
ARE YOU
GOING TO
DO?

I DUNNO I...
I THINK I HAVE
AN EARRING
IN MY GLOVE
COMPARTMENT

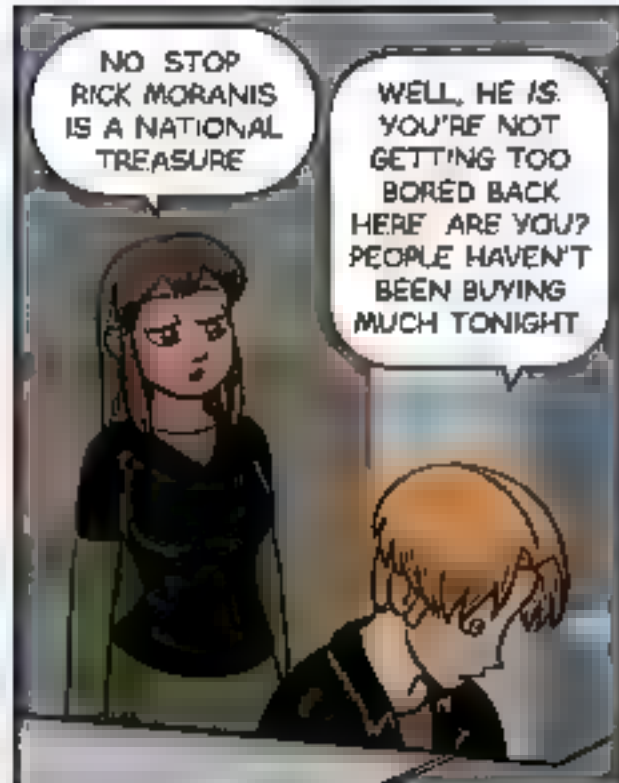
I'M
GONNA
LIGHT UP
THE GAY
SIGNAL



HEY
GRACE

HELLOOOO.
JUSTIN!
WHAT'S UP?

I'M GOING TO
PUT IN A NEW
MOVIE I CAN ONLY
WATCH *SPACE BALLS*
SO MANY TIMES IN
A MONTH.



NO STOP
RICK MORANIS
IS A NATIONAL
TREASURE

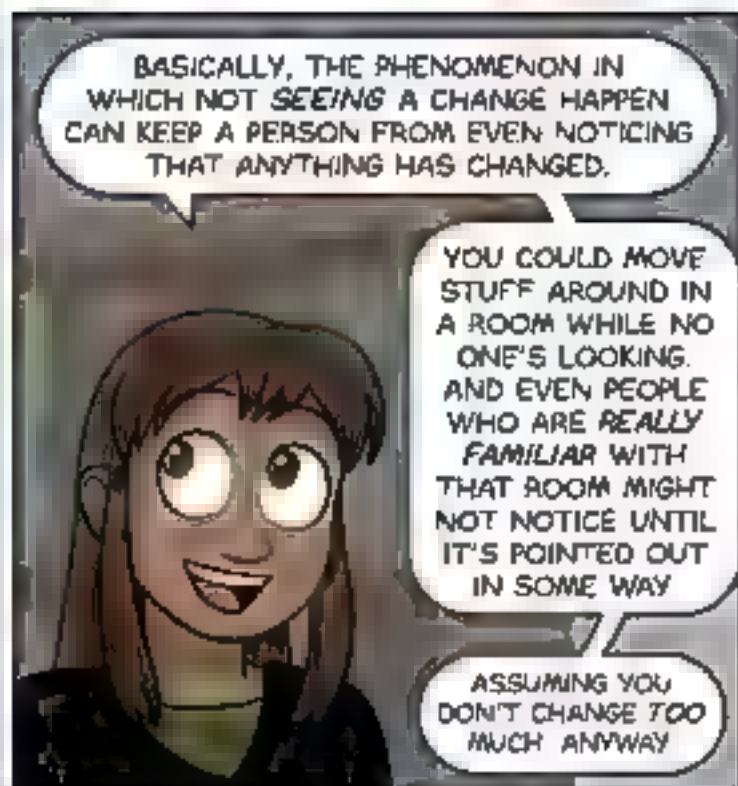
WELL, HE IS.
YOU'RE NOT
GETTING TOO
BORED BACK
HERE ARE YOU?
PEOPLE HAVEN'T
BEEN BUYING
MUCH TONIGHT



OH, I'M FINE. THERE'S
PLENTY OF STUFF TO
LOOK AT IN HERE AND
IF I'M EVER REALLY
BORED, I CAN ALWAYS
PLAY AROUND WITH
CHANGE BLINDNESS.



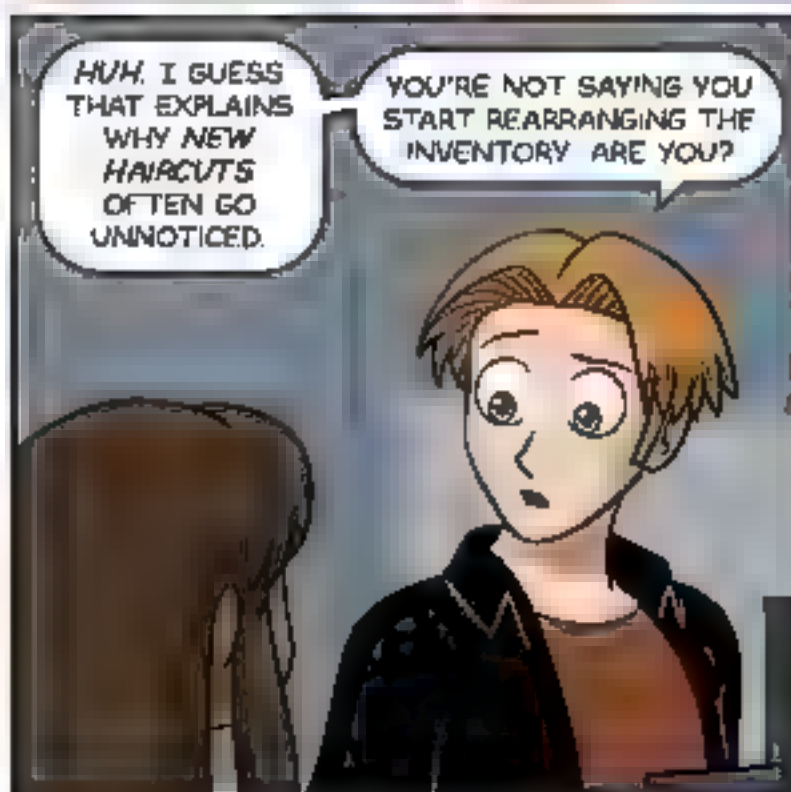
PLAY AROUND
WITH *WHAT*?



BASICALLY, THE PHENOMENON IN
WHICH NOT SEEING A CHANGE HAPPEN
CAN KEEP A PERSON FROM EVEN NOTICING
THAT ANYTHING HAS CHANGED.

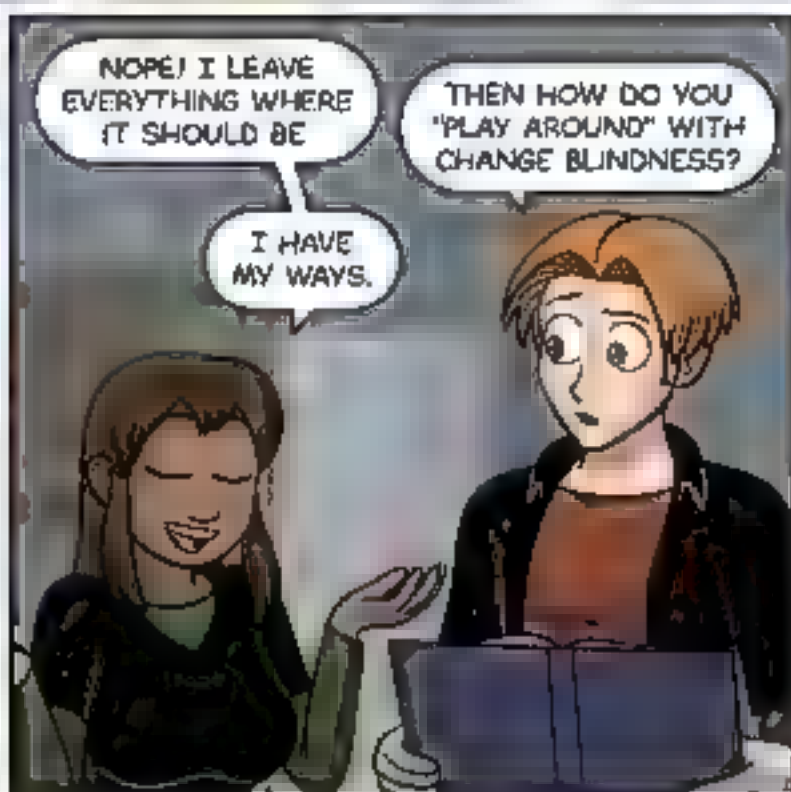
YOU COULD MOVE
STUFF AROUND IN
A ROOM WHILE NO
ONE'S LOOKING.
AND EVEN PEOPLE
WHO ARE *REALLY*
FAMILIAR WITH
THAT ROOM MIGHT
NOT NOTICE UNTIL
IT'S POINTED OUT
IN SOME WAY

ASSUMING YOU
DON'T CHANGE TOO
MUCH ANYWAY



HUH, I GUESS
THAT EXPLAINS
WHY NEW
HAIRCUTS
OFTEN GO
UNNOTICED.

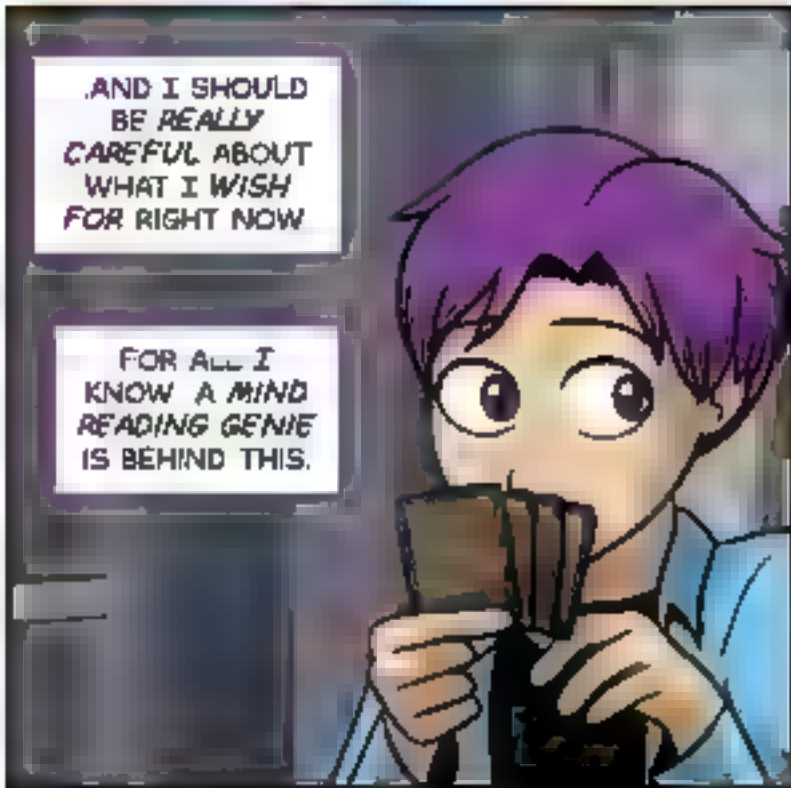
YOU'RE NOT SAYING YOU
START REARRANGING THE
INVENTORY ARE YOU?

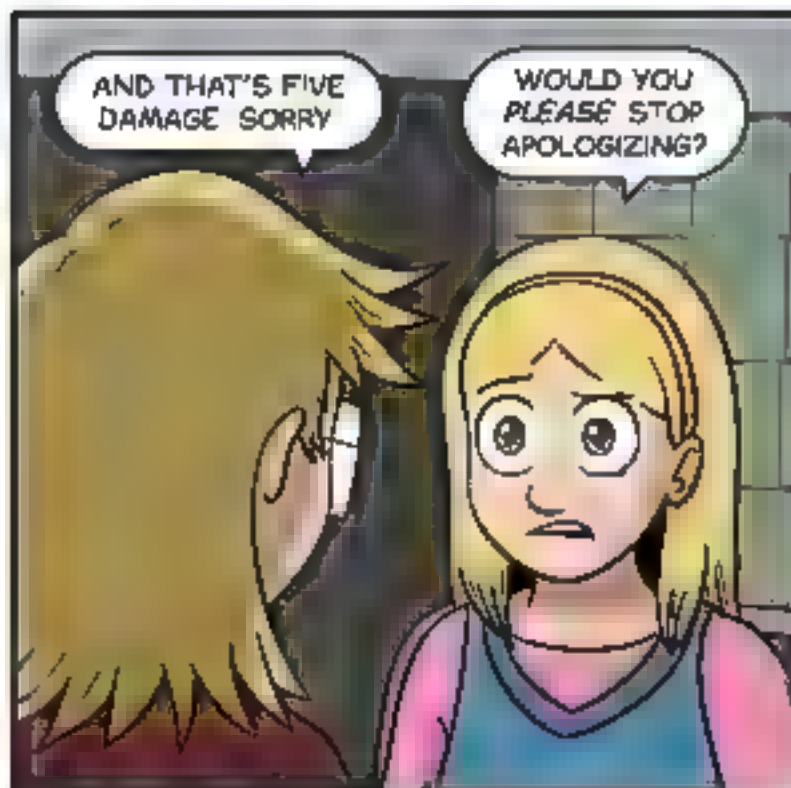


NOPE! I LEAVE
EVERYTHING WHERE
IT SHOULD BE

THEN HOW DO YOU
"PLAY AROUND" WITH
CHANGE BLINDNESS?

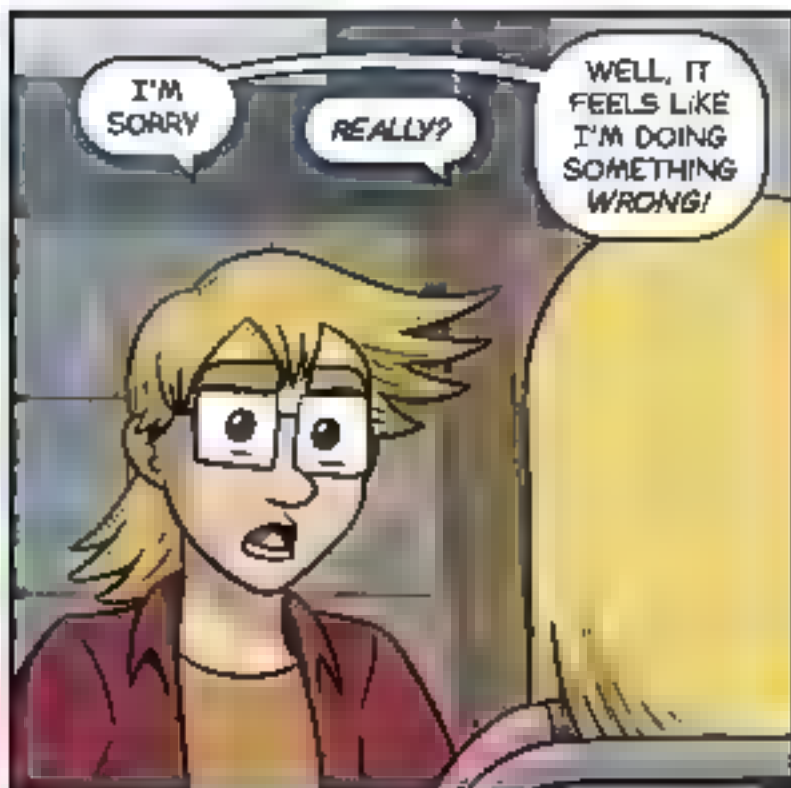
I HAVE
MY WAYS.





AND THAT'S FIVE
DAMAGE SORRY

WOULD YOU
PLEASE STOP
APOLOGIZING?



I'M
SORRY

REALLY?

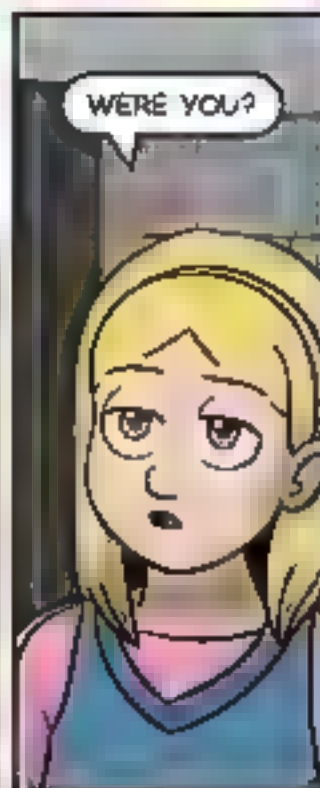
WELL, IT
FEELS LIKE
I'M DOING
SOMETHING
WRONG!



WINNING AGAINST A
GIRL IN A CARD GAME
FEELS WRONG. BUT
HITTING ON A GIRL
YOU JUST MET IN A
COMIC SHOP IS OKAY?



ALL I DID WAS ASK IF
YOU PLAYED CARD
GAMES OFTEN! YOU
JUST ASSUMED I WAS
HITTING ON YOU AND
GOING TO LET YOU WIN!



WERE YOU?

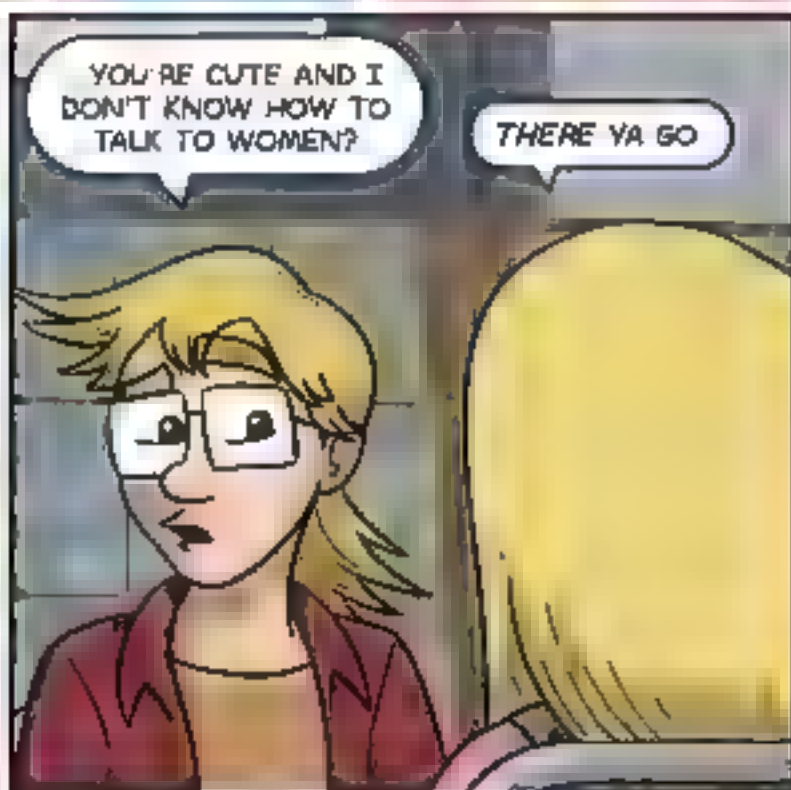


WELL, OBVIOUSLY
BUT THAT WAS STILL
PRESUMPTUOUS!



I MEAN, UH..

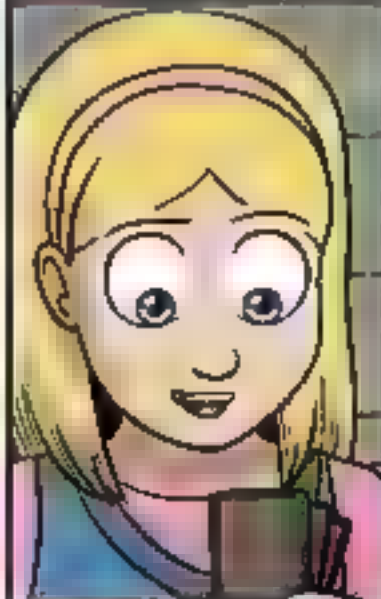
NO NO, HONESTY'S
GOOD. I LIKE HONESTY
GO WITH THAT



YOU'RE CUTE AND I
DON'T KNOW HOW TO
TALK TO WOMEN?

THERE YA GO

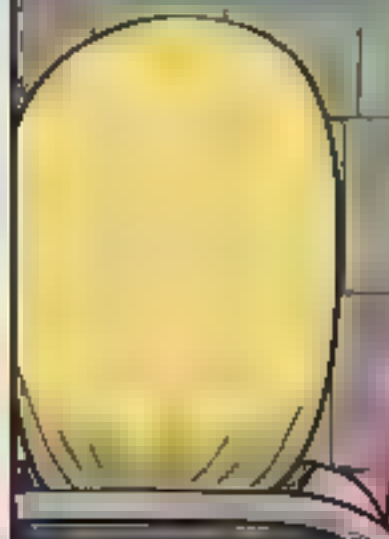
YOU'RE DONE
WITH YOUR TURN,
RIGHT?



OH, UH, SOR--I
MEAN YEAH YOUR
TURN.



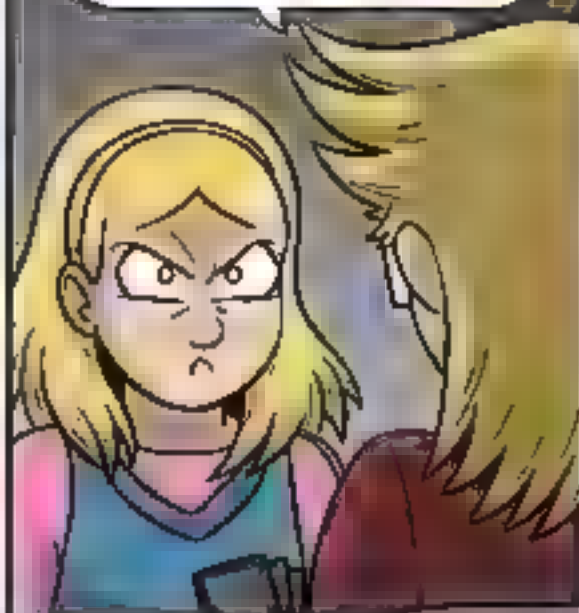
LOOK, IT'S NOT
COMPLICATED. WE'RE
BOTH PEOPLE



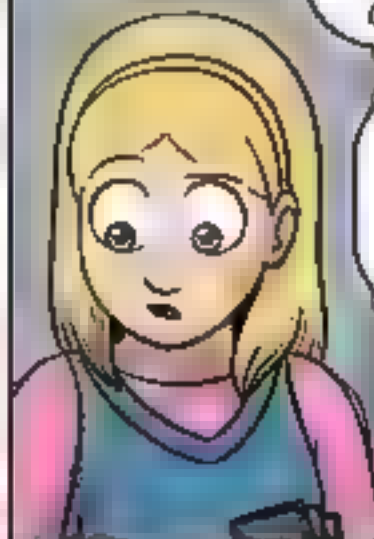
~~BT~~
YOU'RE A
GIRL.



I I MEAN, YEAH,
YOU'RE A PERSON, BUT WE'RE
DIFFERENT, YOU KNOW?



NOT THAT
DIFFERENT
DRAW A
CARD...



LIKE, OKAY
LET'S SAY YOU'RE
DOING SOMETHING
SOMEWHERE AND
DON'T WANT TO
GET HIT ON.

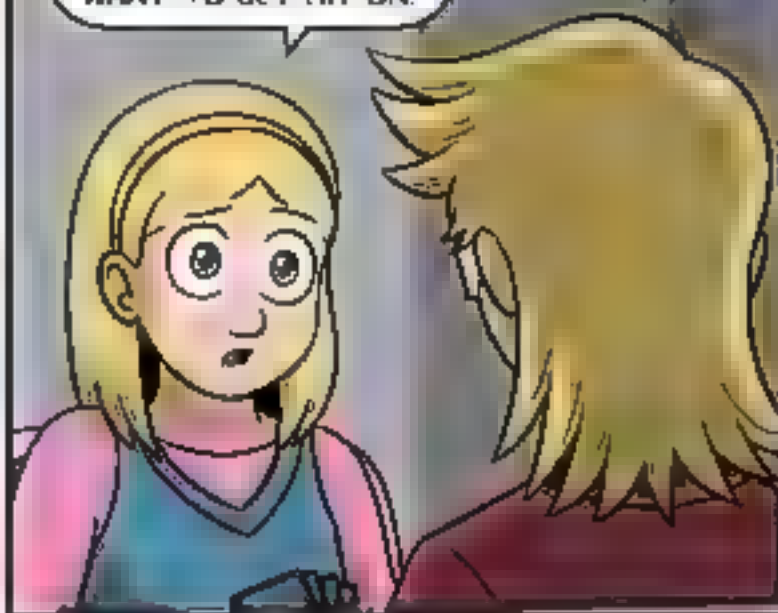
AND SOME
STRANGE GIRL
YOU'VE NEVER
MET SUDDENLY
STARTS HITTING
ON YOU



THAT'D BE
AWESOME!



NO. SEE SHE'S
HITTING ON YOU AT A
TIME WHEN YOU DON'T
WANT TO GET HIT ON.



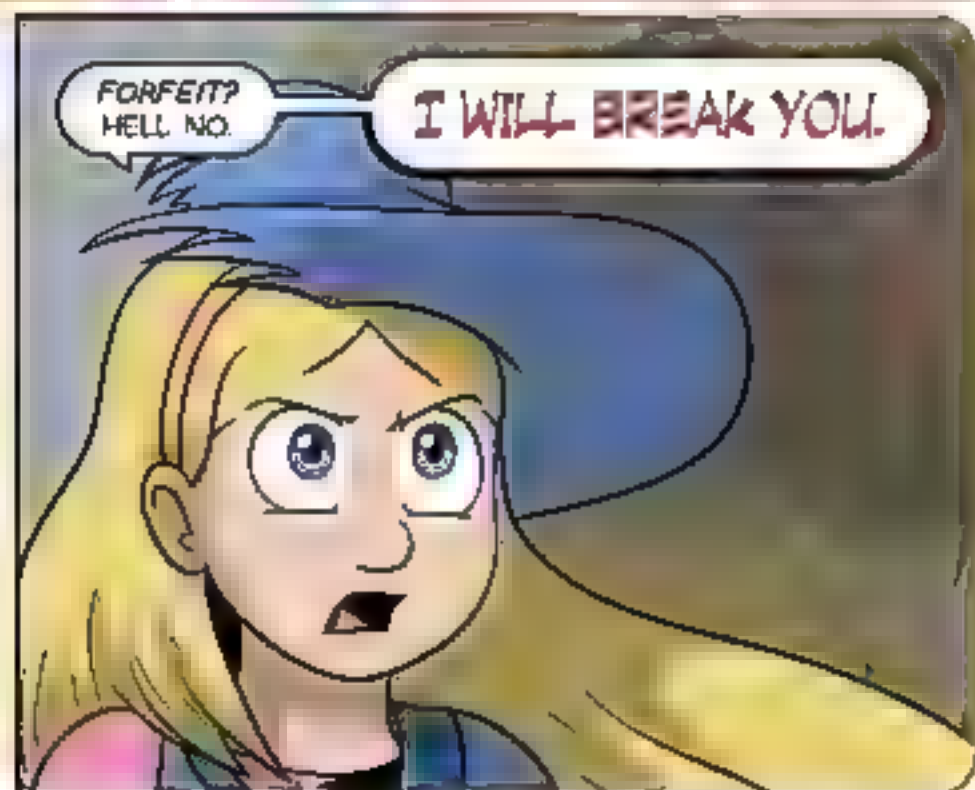
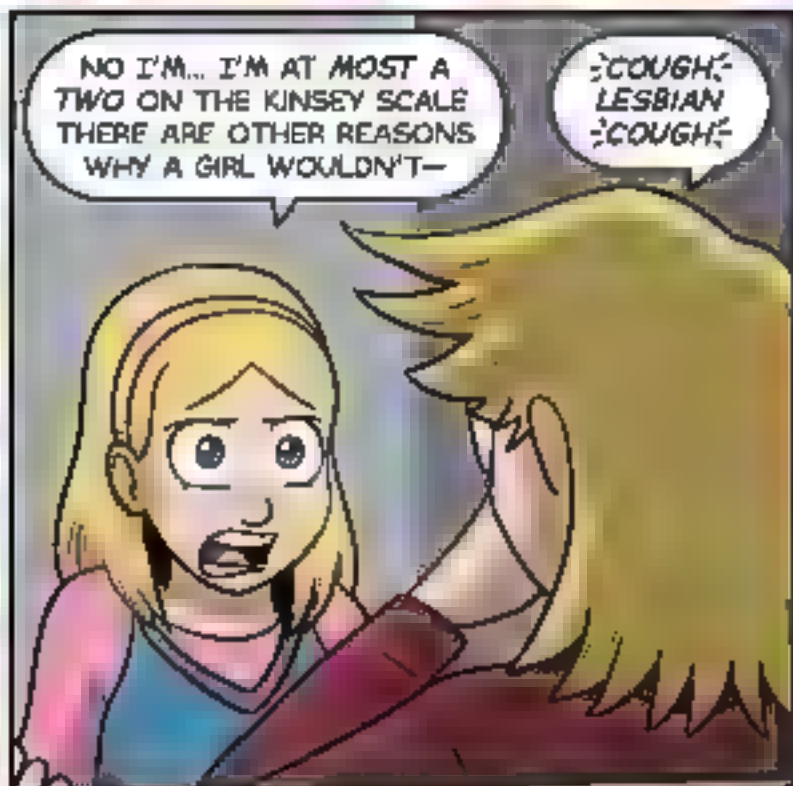
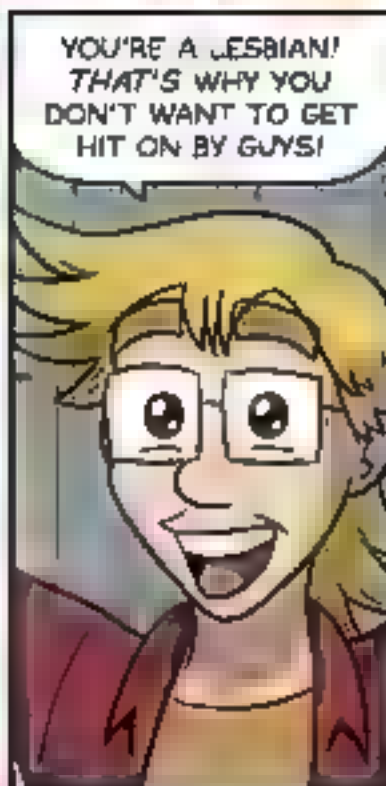
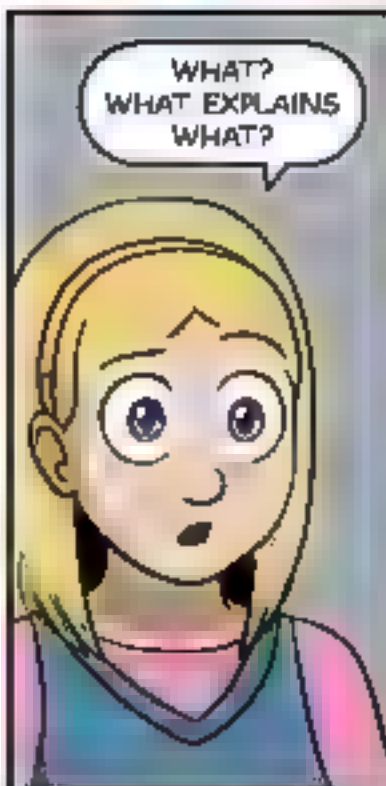
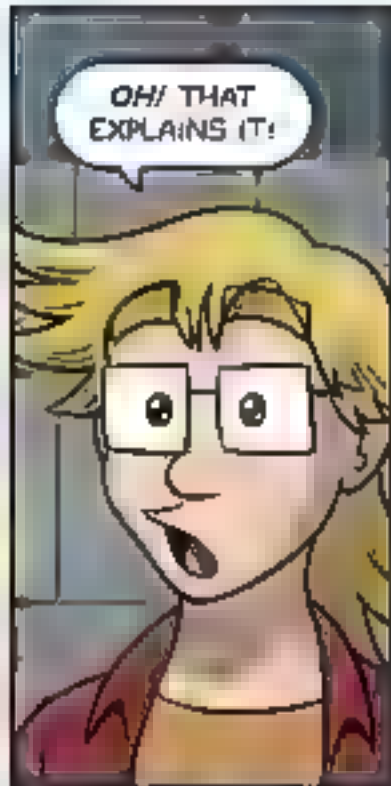
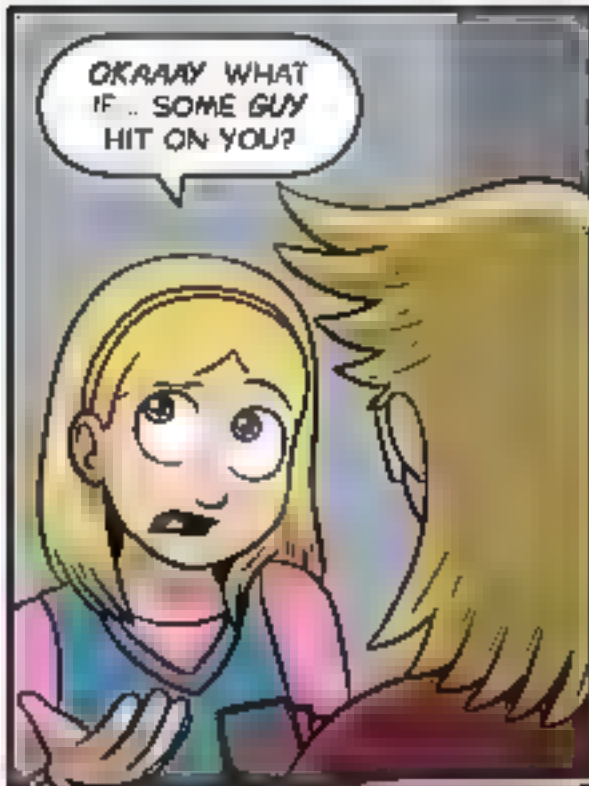
I DON'T
UNDERSTAND.

COME ON! THERE'S
GOT TO BE TIMES WHEN
YOU DON'T WANT RANDOM
WOMEN HITTING ON YOU



YOU'RE
JOKING,
RIGHT?

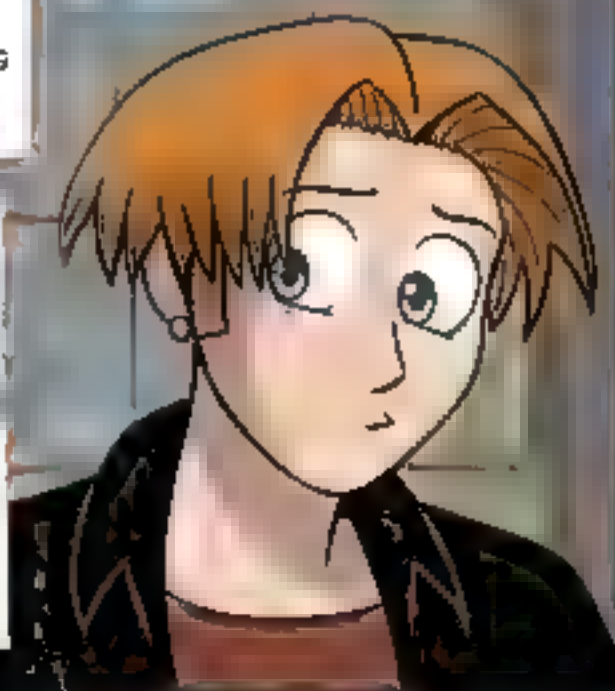




THIS FEELS SO WEIRD. I'M NOT USED TO WEARING AN EARRING IN PUBLIC ANYMORE

I FEEL LIKE I JUST WALKED INTO A ROOM WITHOUT ANY PANTS ON.

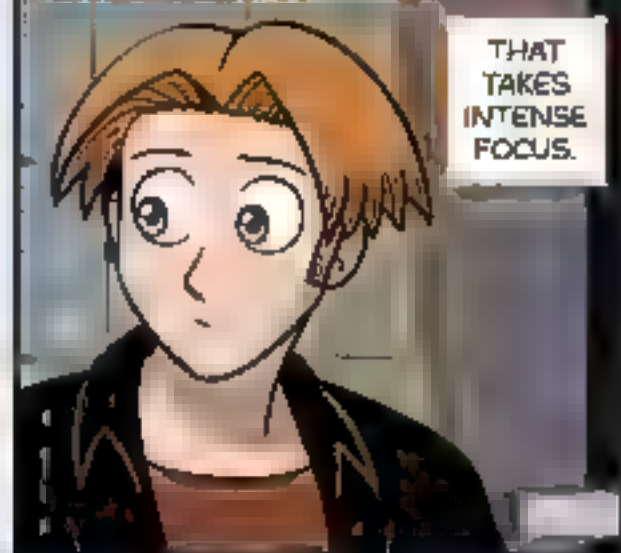
WHICH IS IRONIC, SEEING AS I'M TECHNICALLY WEARING MORE NOW



LUKE'S JUST A COUPLE TABLES OVER. BUT I DON'T THINK HE'S NOTICED.

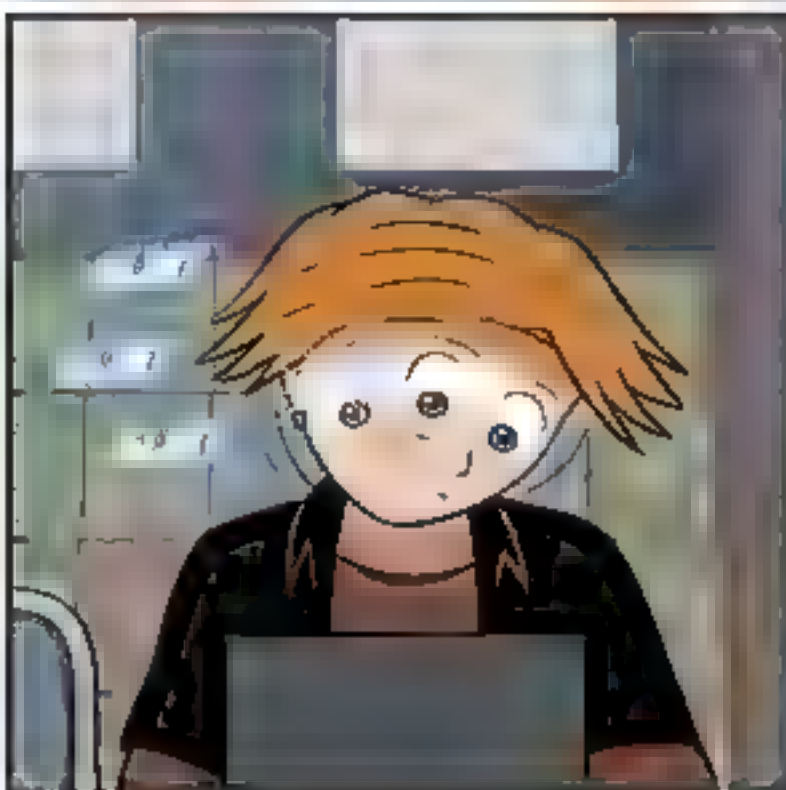
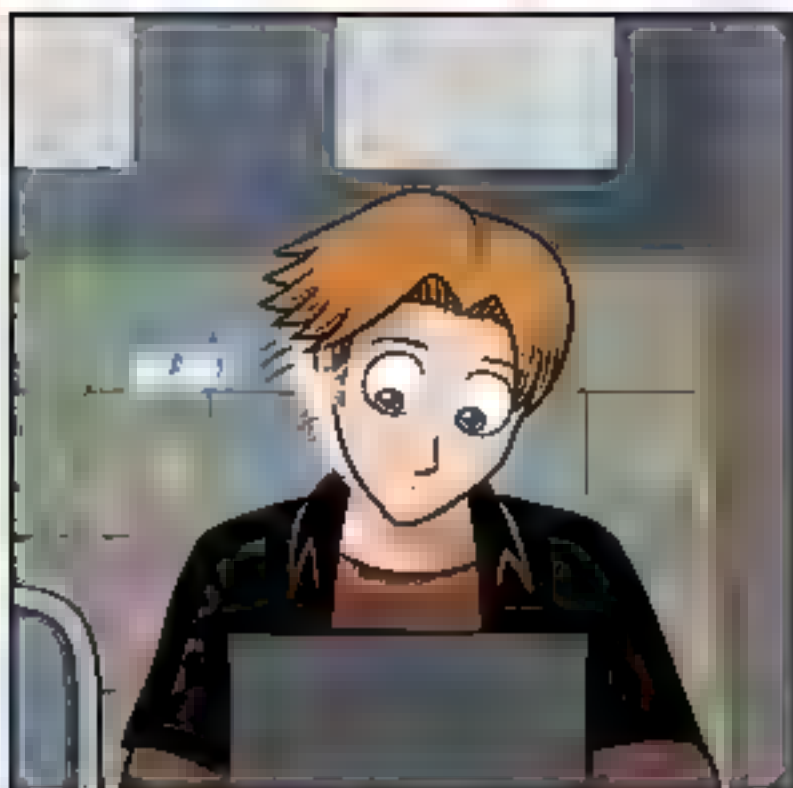
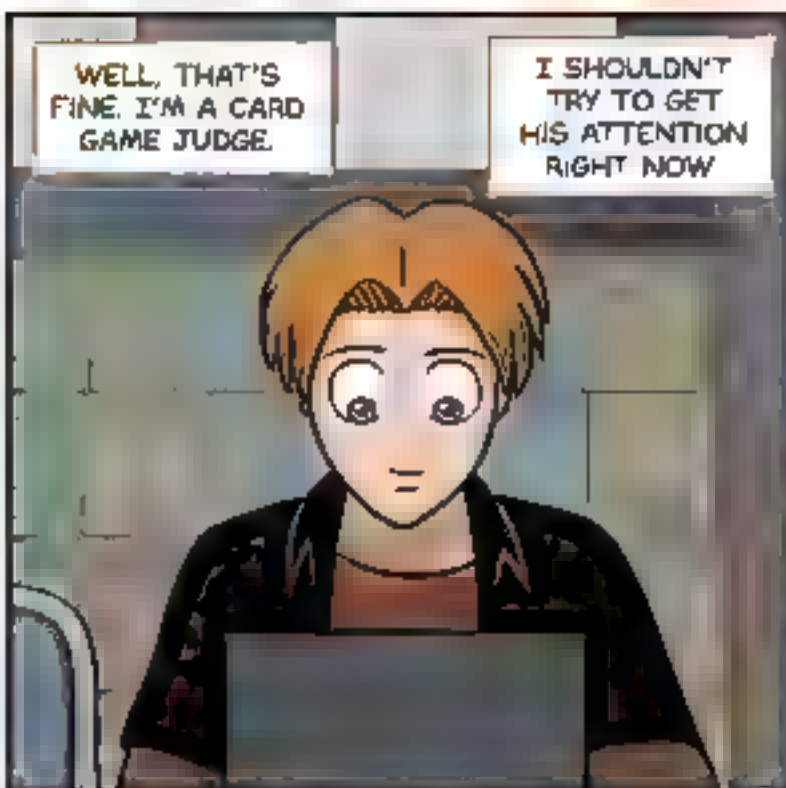
WHY WOULD HE? HE'S BUSY PLAYING A CARD GAME.

THAT TAKES INTENSE FOCUS.

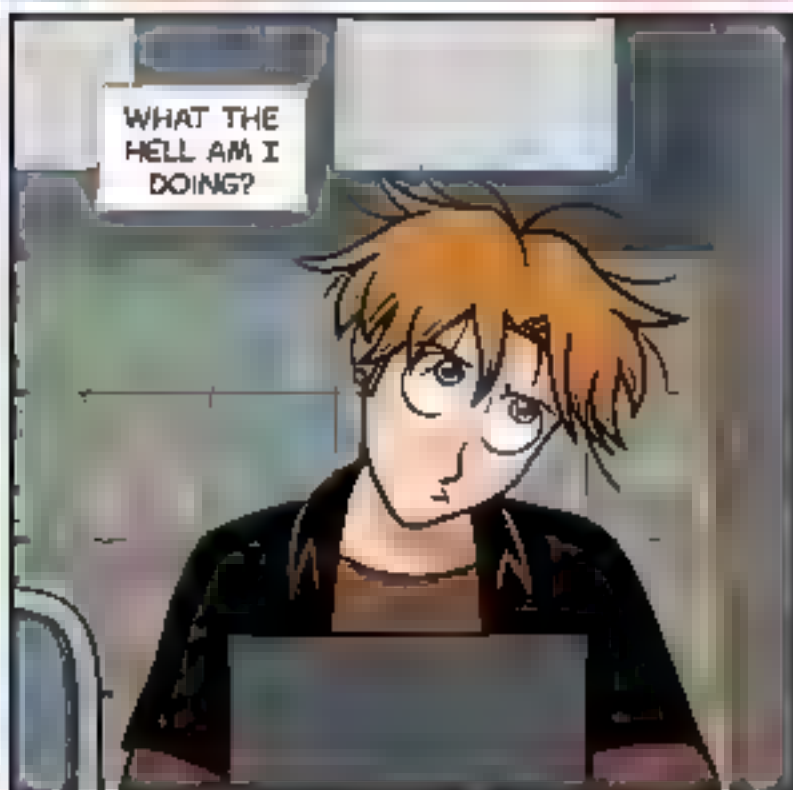


WELL, THAT'S FINE. I'M A CARD GAME JUDGE.

I SHOULDN'T TRY TO GET HIS ATTENTION RIGHT NOW



WHAT THE HELL AM I DOING?



..AND THEN THEY'LL GET MARRIED, AND BUILD A HOUSE, AND HAVE LOTS OF BABIES..



WAIT, THAT DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE.

WHY WOULD THEY BUILD A HOUSE?



HELLO. GRACE

DEX! WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE ON A FRIDAY NIGHT?

GAME NIGHT WAS CANCELED THIS WEEK BECAUSE GREG'S ON A DATE WITH HIS GIRLFRIEND SO..



GREG HAS A NEW GIRL-FRIEND?!

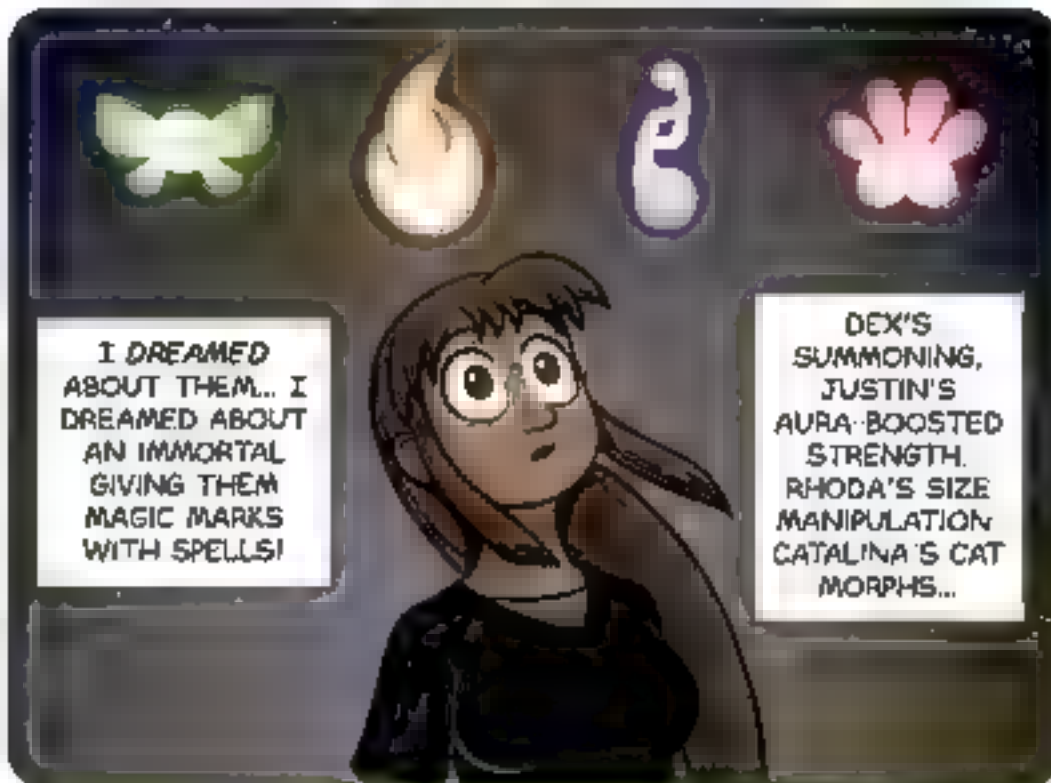
YEP! MET HER ON NEW YEARS EVE



WE MIGHT HAVE TO MOVE GAME NIGHT AROUND BUT THAT'S FINE







I DREAMED ABOUT THEM... I DREAMED ABOUT AN IMMORTAL GIVING THEM MAGIC MARKS WITH SPELLS!

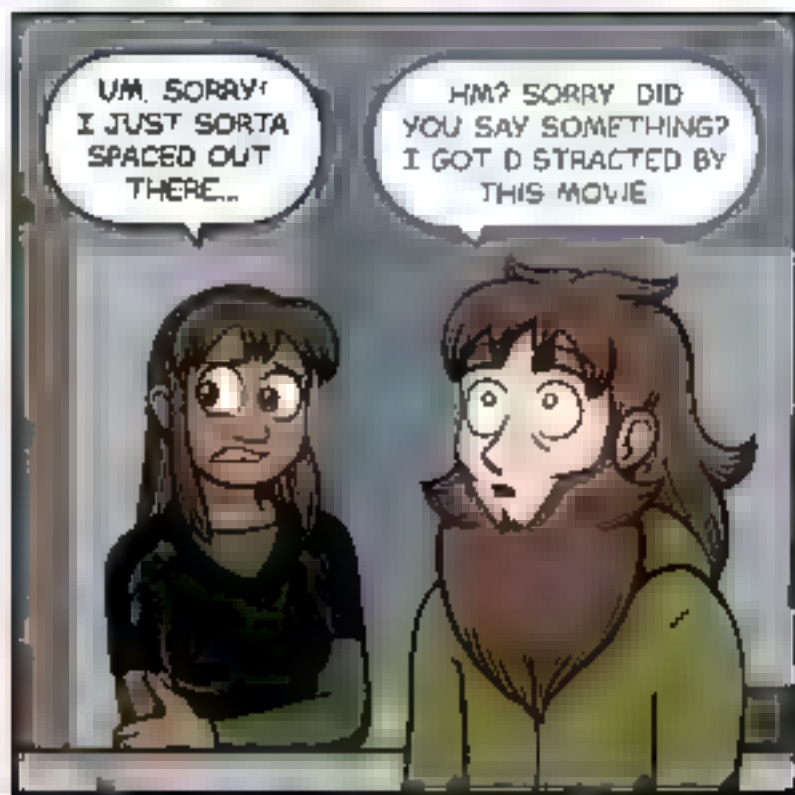
DEX'S SUMMONING, JUSTIN'S AURA BOOSTED STRENGTH. RHODA'S SIZE MANIPULATION CATALINA'S CAT MORPHS...



WAS IT JUST A DREAM? IT SEEMS SO STRANGE BUT IT'S NOT THAT WEIRD TO DREAM ABOUT CATALINA BOBCAT DOING CAT-LIKE THINGS, OR RHODA BEING INVOLVED IN SIZE CHANGING ANTICS...



AND DEX... OH, RIGHT! DEX!



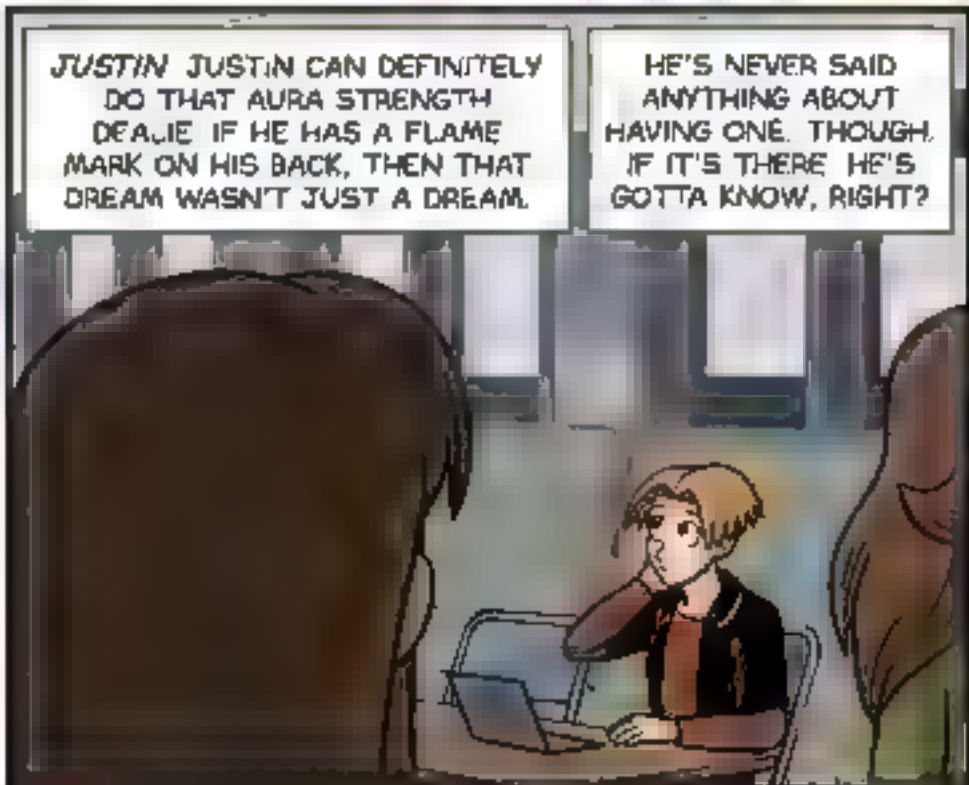
UM, SORRY! I JUST SORTA SPACED OUT THERE...

HM? SORRY DID YOU SAY SOMETHING? I GOT DISTRACTED BY THIS MOVIE



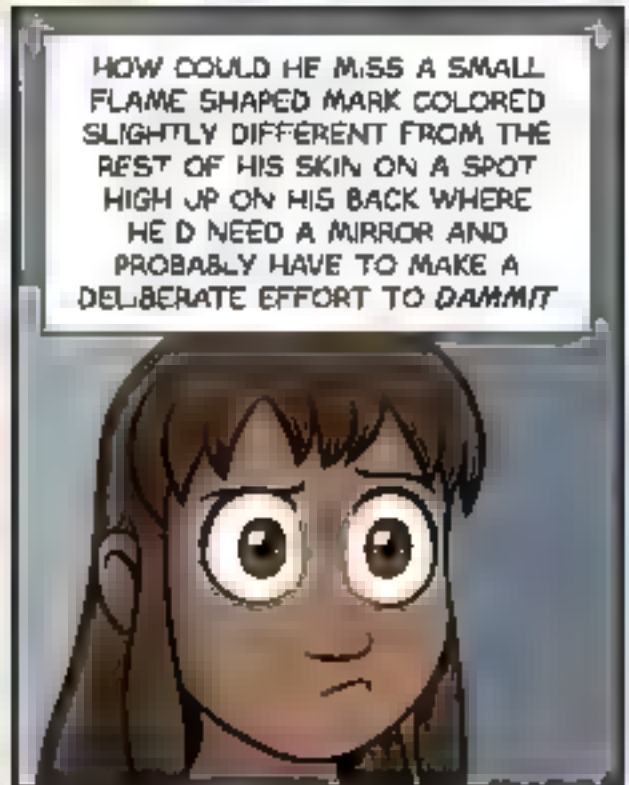
UH, NEVERMIND.

HE'S FINE AND I KNOW HE HAS A MARK.



JUSTIN JUSTIN CAN DEFINITELY DO THAT AURA STRENGTH DEALIE IF HE HAS A FLAME MARK ON HIS BACK, THEN THAT DREAM WASN'T JUST A DREAM.

HE'S NEVER SAID ANYTHING ABOUT HAVING ONE. THOUGH. IF IT'S THERE HE'S GOTTA KNOW, RIGHT?



HOW COULD HE MISS A SMALL FLAME SHAPED MARK COLORED SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT FROM THE REST OF HIS SKIN ON A SPOT HIGH UP ON HIS BACK WHERE HE'D NEED A MIRROR AND PROBABLY HAVE TO MAKE A DELIBERATE EFFORT TO DAMMIT

OKAY, THIS GUY IS
TOTALLY RUINING THE FUN
OF BEING INEXPLICABLY
TURNED INTO A GIRL BY
SOME TERRIFYING
UNKNOWN POWER.



I VERY NEARLY
SUCCESSFULLY CHANGED
A TIRE ONCE



MAYBE I SHOULD TRY
SARAH'S THING AND
IMAGINE THE GAME
LIKE IT'S AN ACTUAL
WIZARD DUEL...



I AM THE SUPER CUTE
WIZARD OF TRANSFORMATION
AND SCIENCE TEDD VERRES!



AND IN THE NAME
OF UM, I DUNNO.
TAKING A HINT

I WILL
ZAP YOU!



UM, YOU'RE BEING
PRETTY QUIET YOU
KNOW T'S YOUR
TURN, RIGHT?

NOT THAT I'M
BOTHERED BY IT
YOU CAN BE QUIET
IF YOU WANNA BE

JUST YOU
KNOW DELAY
OF GAME



MUST
IMAGINE
FASTER.





A belief commonly held in the land of card games is that those who shuffle with justice and good in their hearts shall inevitably know victory over those who do not.



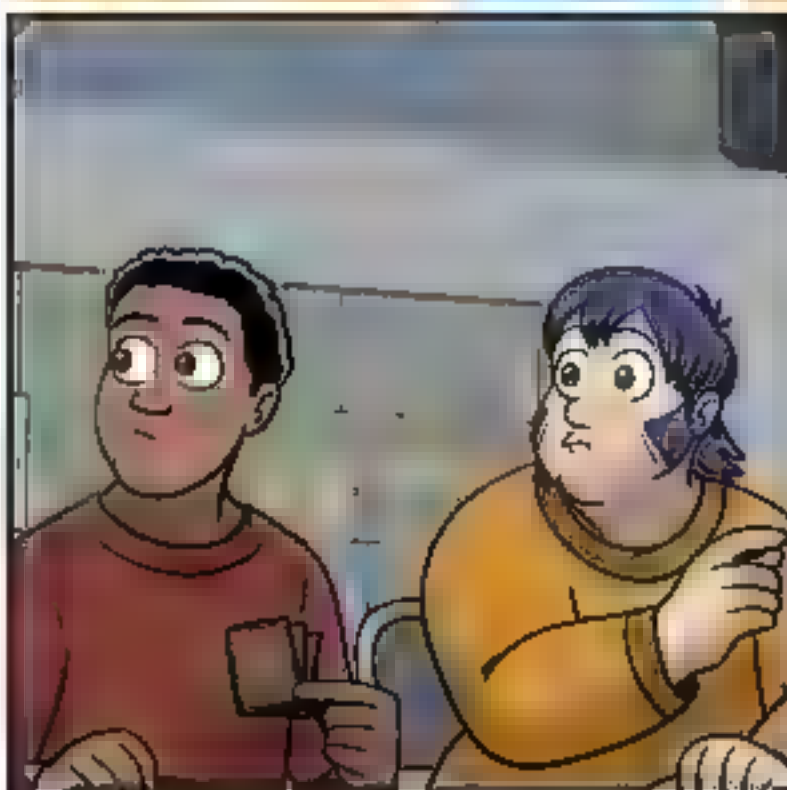
This, however, is falsehood. Cards care not for the cares of humanity, and they shuffle as they may. The cards ultimately neutral, even the just can fall in card game combat.

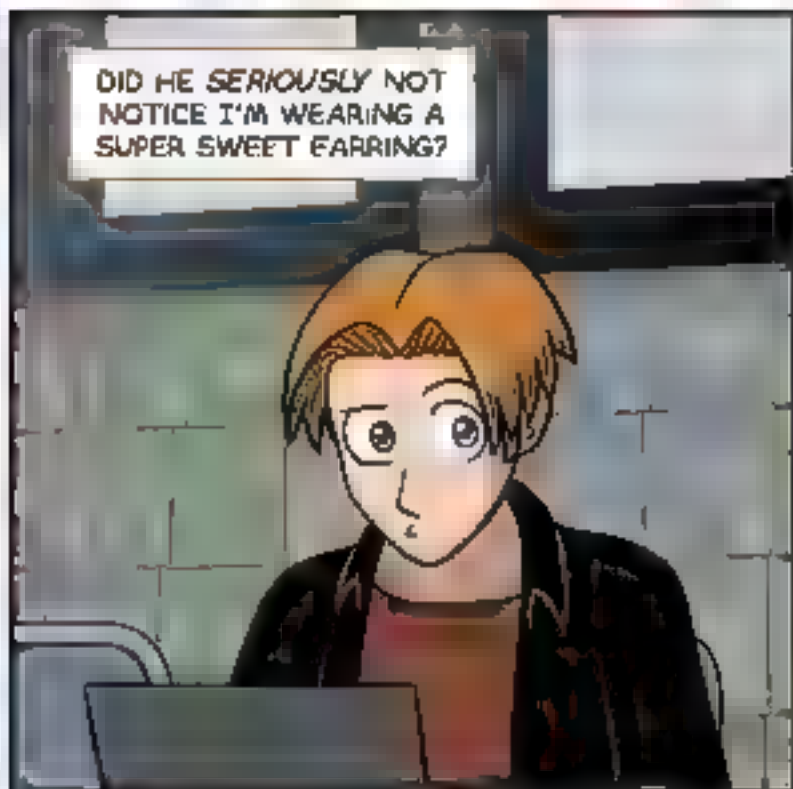
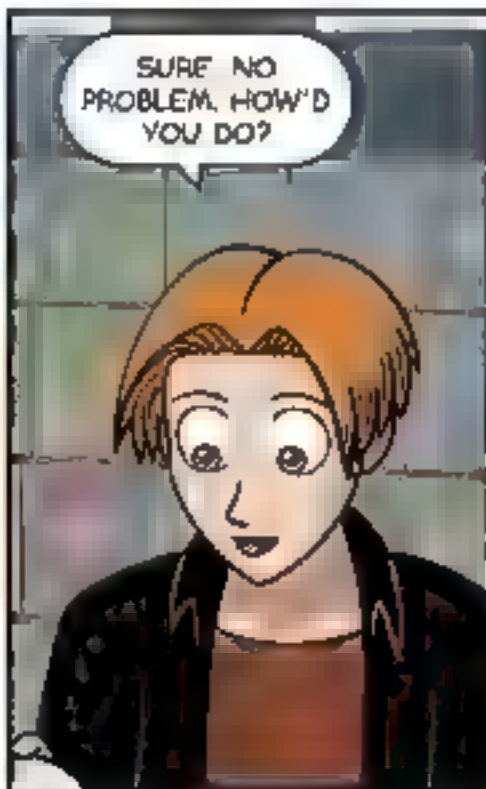
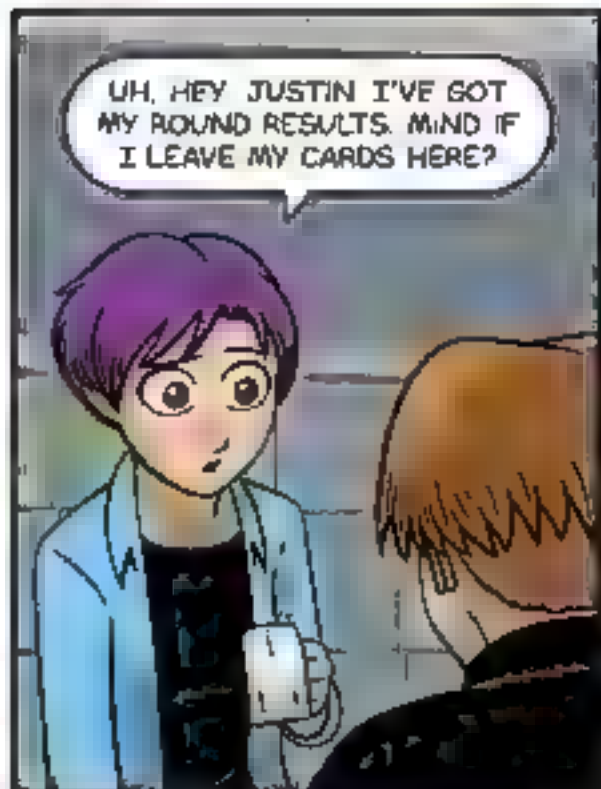


But yeah, Tedd and Sarah totally kicked Rich and Larry's asses.

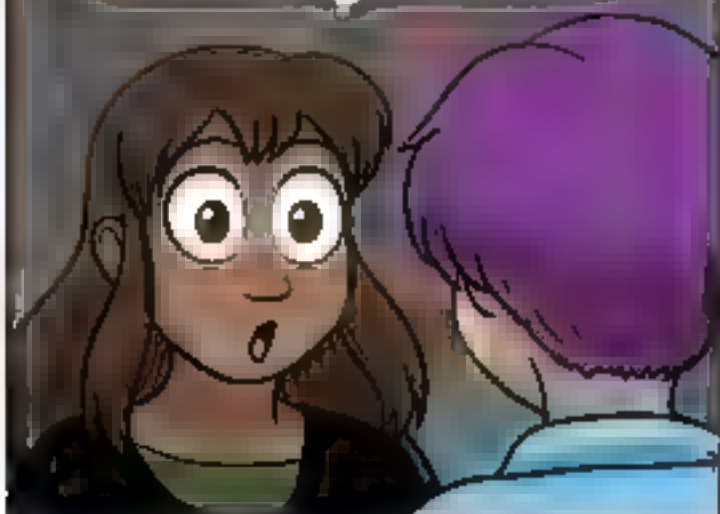


Tedd-- *Erhem* Tedd's match is over first, however



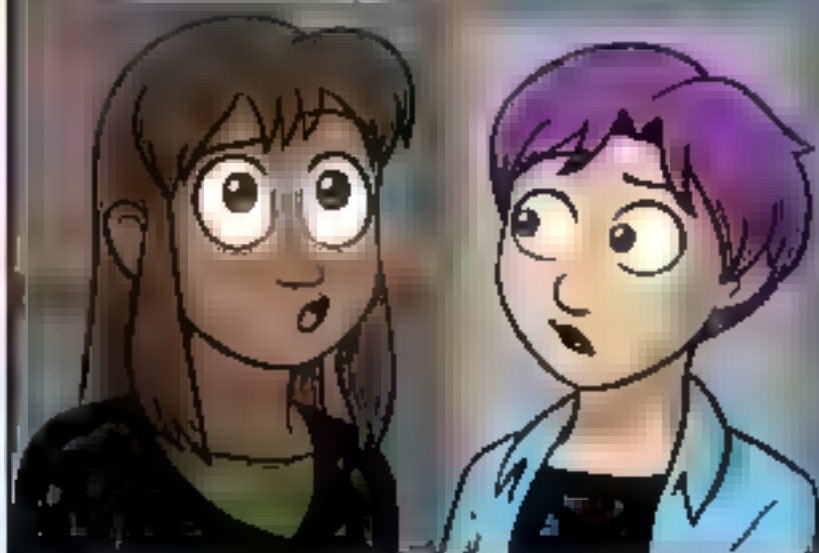


THAT CREEPY FLOATING GIRL FROM THE NEWS MAY OR MAY NOT BE A POWERFUL IMMORTAL WHO HAS BEEN MARKING A WHOLE BUNCH OF PEOPLE POSSIBLY INCLUDING JUSTIN, RHODA, CATALINA, AND NOW MAYBE YOU!



OR MAYBE SOMEONE ELSE HERE WAS, AND THEIR SPELL TARGETS OTHER PEOPLE?

I REITERATE SAY WHAT NOW?



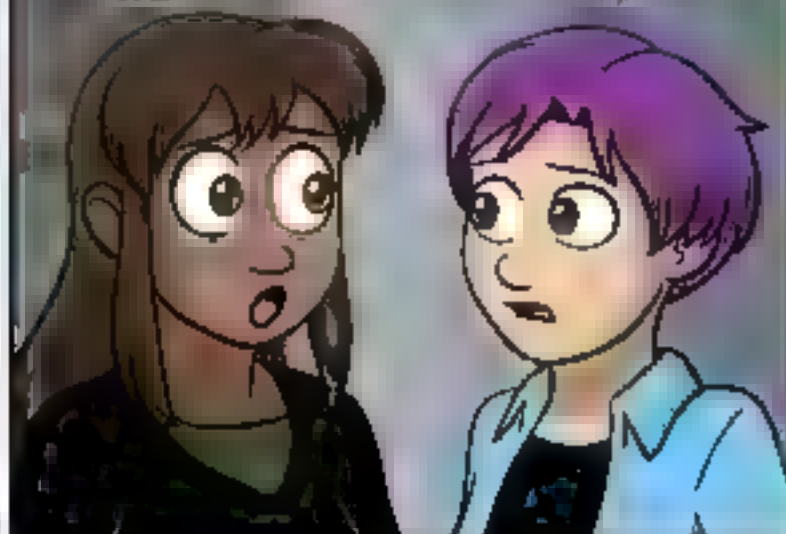
I HAD A DREAM ABOUT IT! I'M NOT SURE IF IT'S TRUE BUT IF YOU WERE MARKED AND GIVEN A SELF-GIRLIFICATION SPELL, YOU COULD HAVE USED IT WITHOUT MEANING TO!



I'M HONESTLY NOT SURE WHAT TO COMMENT ON FIRST YOU'RE HAVING PROPHETIC DREAMS, NOW?

I DUNNO! THAT CAN WAIT MARK NOW DREAMS LATER

WELL I CAN'T HAVE A MARK I'M MAGICALLY IMPAIRED, REMEMBER? I'LL NEVER HAVE SPELLS OF MY OWN



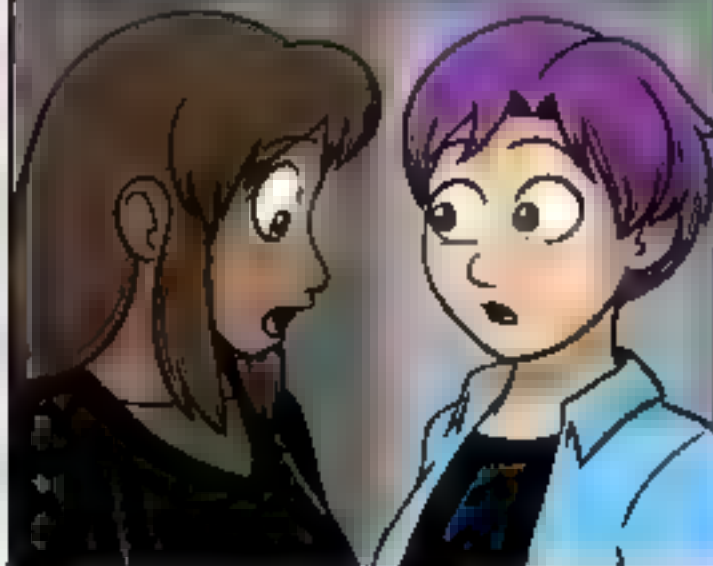
BUT YOU DO HAVE SOME MAGIC ENERGY AND IT WOULDN'T BE A SPELL "OF YOUR OWN" IT'S FROM A MARK, AND THERE'S ALL THAT AMBIENT MAGIC AROUND MOPERVILLE! YOU DON'T NEED TO HAVE AS MUCH MAGIC ENERGY AS NORMAL!

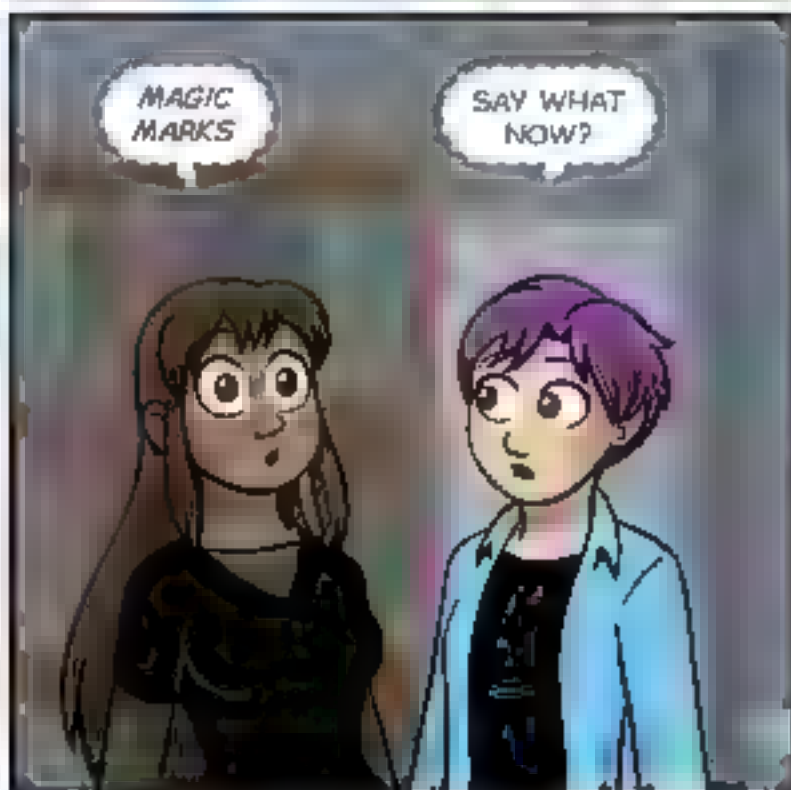
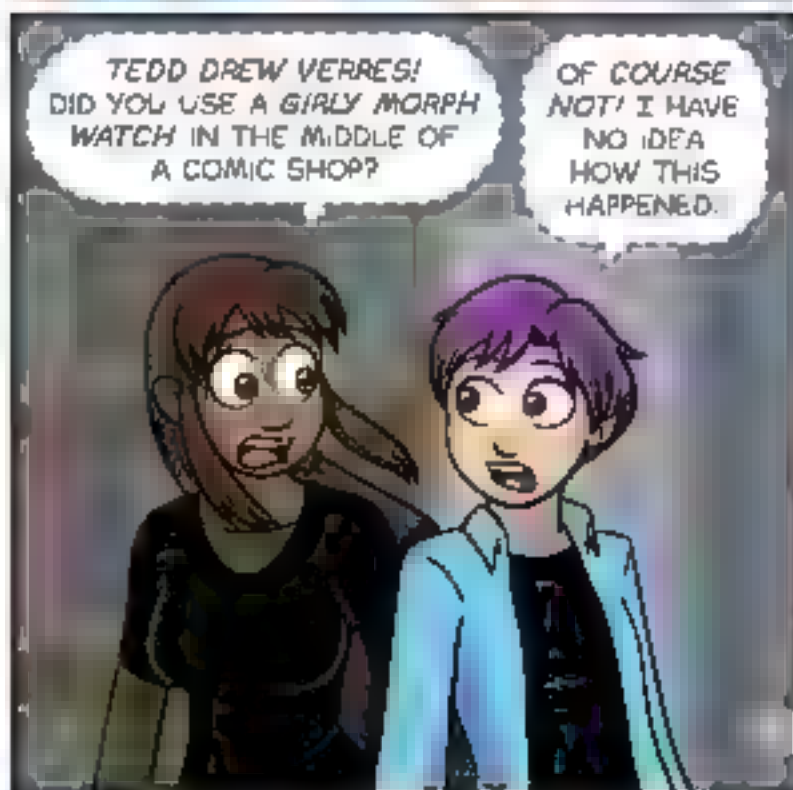
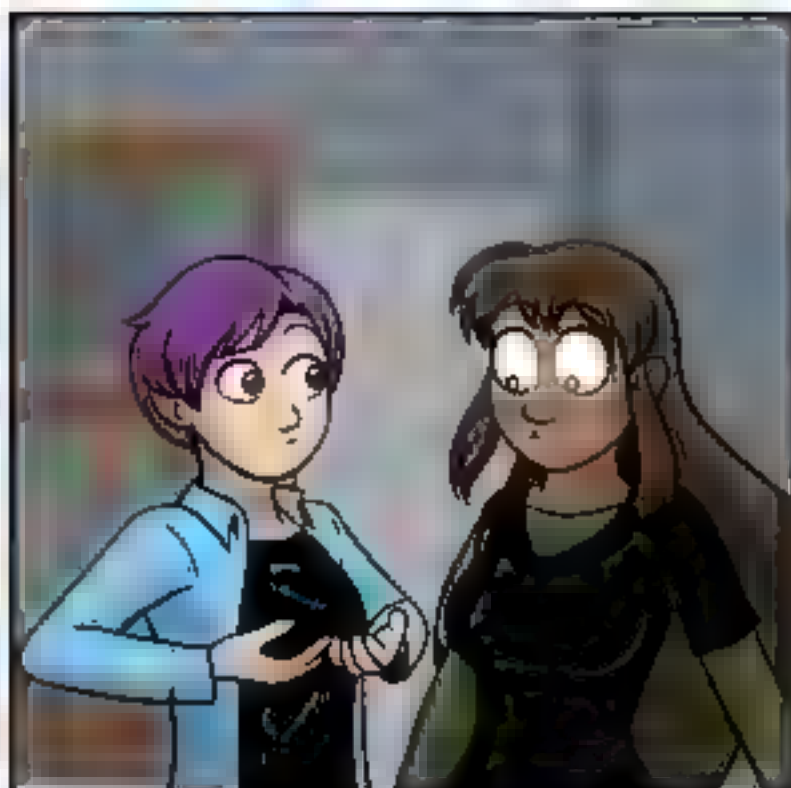
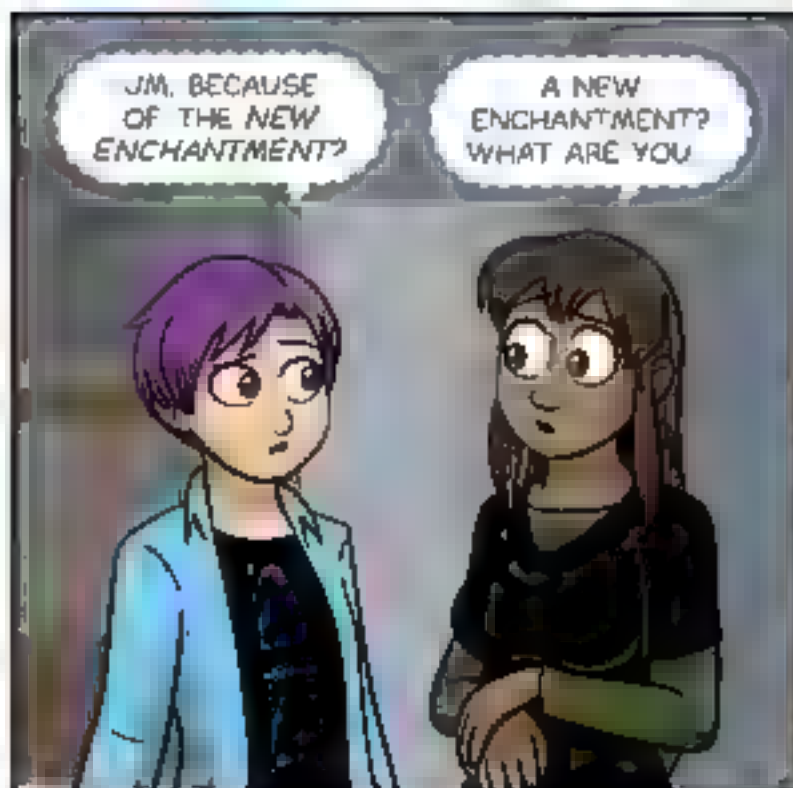
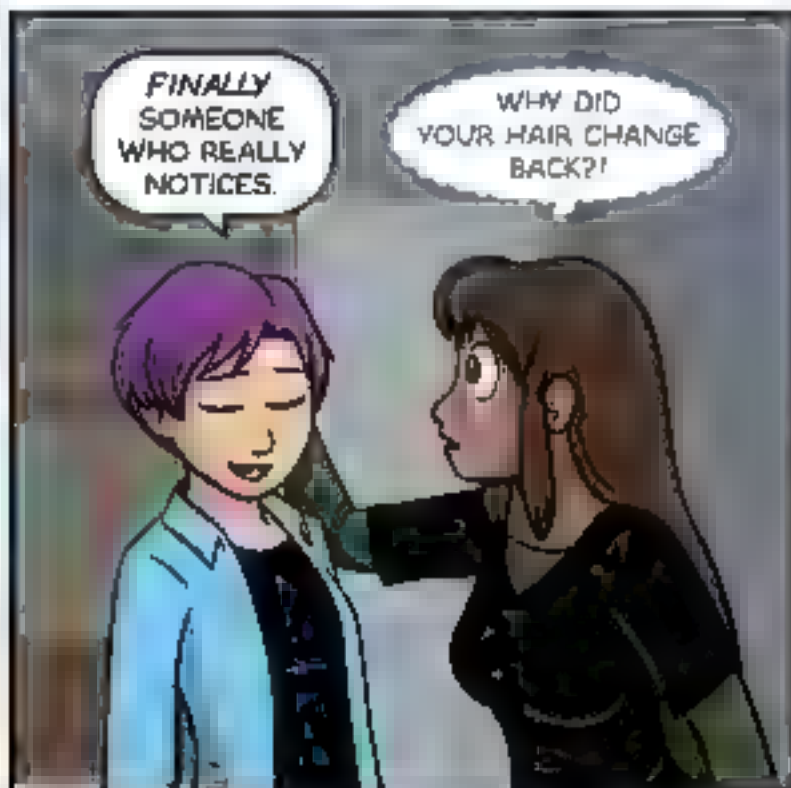
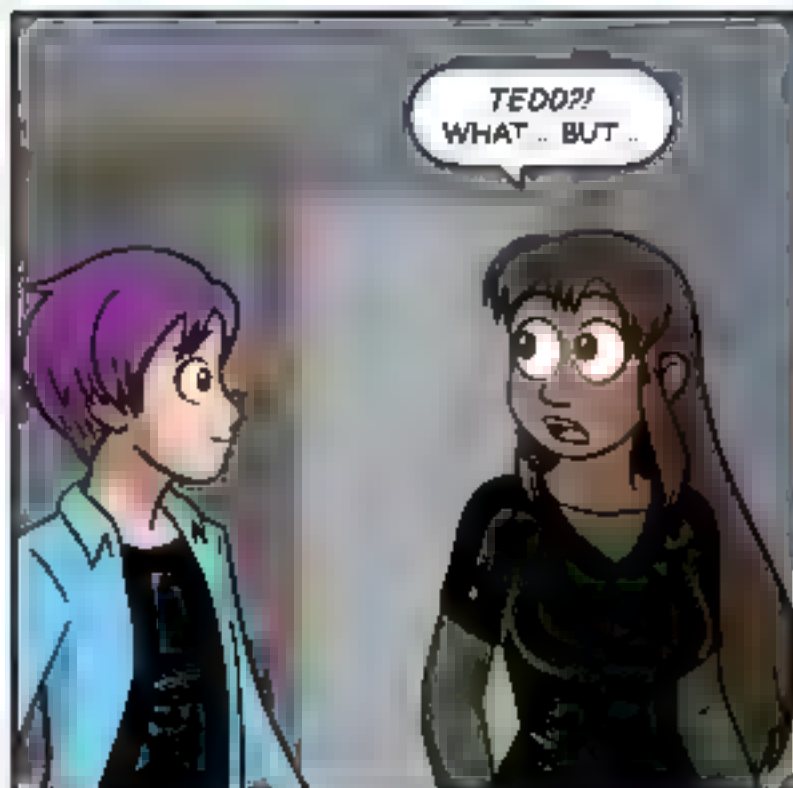


I GUESS THAT COULD BE TRUE

RIGHT SO NOW WE NEED TO CHECK YOU FOR MAGIC MARKS!

UH..

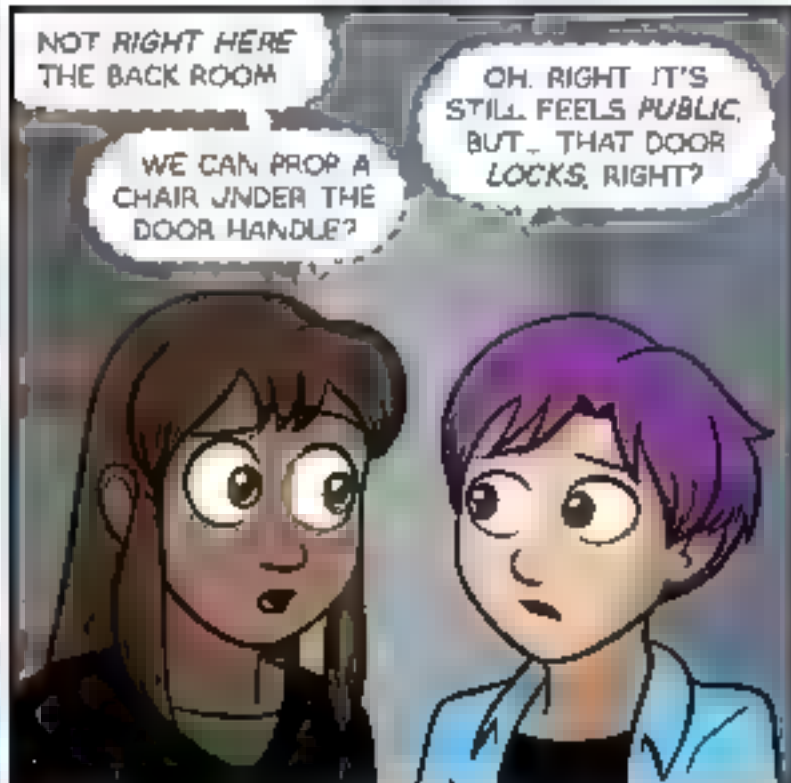






WE NEED TO IF YOU DIDN'T TRANSFORM YOURSELF THEN SOMEONE OR SOMETHING ELSE DID! OTHER PEOPLE COULD GET TRANSFORMED!

YOU'RE RIGHT BUT WE CAN'T JUST, I MEAN, HERE?



NOT RIGHT HERE THE BACK ROOM

WE CAN PROP A CHAIR UNDER THE DOOR HANDLE?

OH, RIGHT IT'S STILL FEELS PUBLIC, BUT... THAT DOOR LOCKS, RIGHT?



OKAY SO... EEP!

I'M SORRY SHOULD I HAVE LET YOU DO THAT YOURSELF?

NO NO I WAS GONNA SUGGEST WE START JUST BY LIFTING THE SHIRT SOME AND LOOK NG. BUT THAT WORKS TOO



I'M NOT. SEE'ING ANY MARK ON YOUR UPPER TORSO

MAYBE I WASN'T-- W- WHOA THAT'S THOROUGH

I THOUGHT YOU WERE OKAY WITH-

YES, YES IT'S FINE. MARK COULD BE ANY WHERE FINE AND GOOD GOOD AND FINE



I AM STILL... NOT... HM, I'M STILL NOT SEE'ING A MARK... COULD IT BE ON YOUR FEET? YOU SHOULD GET THE REST OF YOUR CLOTHES BACK ON.

DO I HAVE TO?

DO WHAT?



THIS IS ACTUALLY PRETTY EXHILARATING

AND IF ONE OF THOSE GUYS OUT THERE TRIES TO GET IN HERE TO USE THE RESTROOM?

GETTING DRESSED

I REALLY DON'T THINK IT'S LIKELY I HAVE A MARK. YOUR HYPOTHESIS IS GOOD AND ALL, BUT..

OKAY THAT'S MY HEAD. I NEED MY HEAD.

IT COULD BE ANYWHERE THERE'S SKIN. RIGHT?

THAT SOUNDS REALLY DISTURBING FOR SOME REASON.

WELL, THERE'S SKIN ON YOUR HEAD.

WHICH I'M VERY THANKFUL FOR. YOU DON'T REALLY THINK IT'S-

FOUND IT

WHAT

I CAN'T REALLY TELL WHAT ITS SHAPE IS, BUT THERE'S DEFINITELY A MARK UNDER YOUR HAIR.

ARE YOU SURE?

EITHER THAT OR YOU'VE ACQUIRED A WEIRD TAN UNDER YOUR HAIR IN THE MIDDLE OF WINTER.

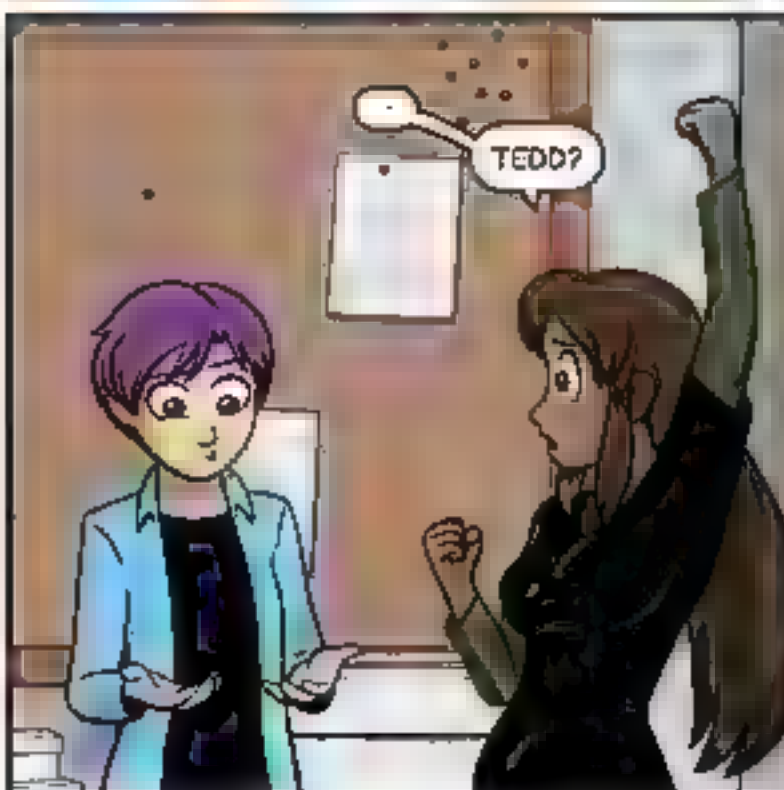
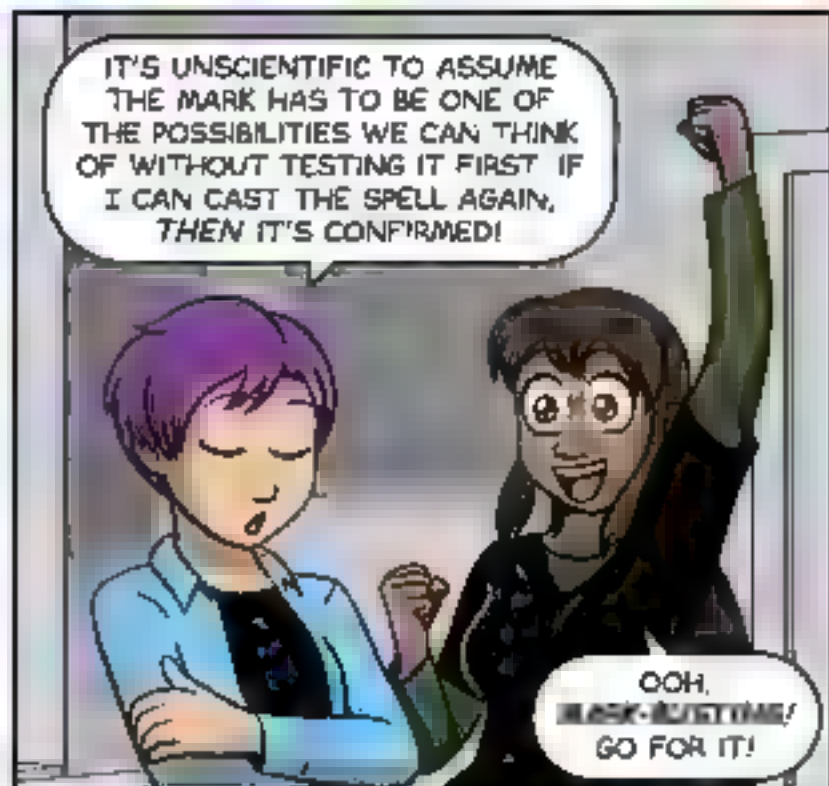
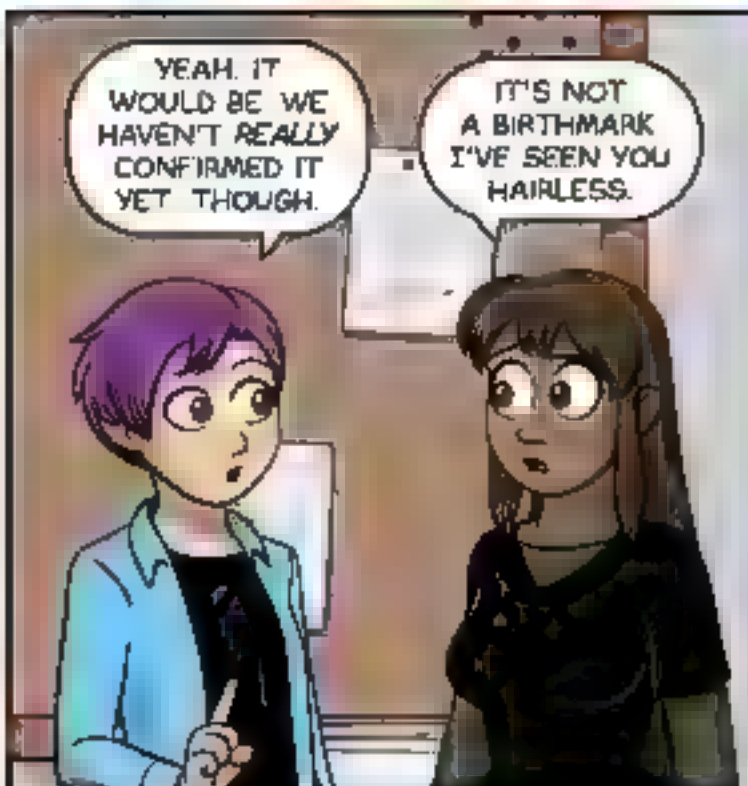
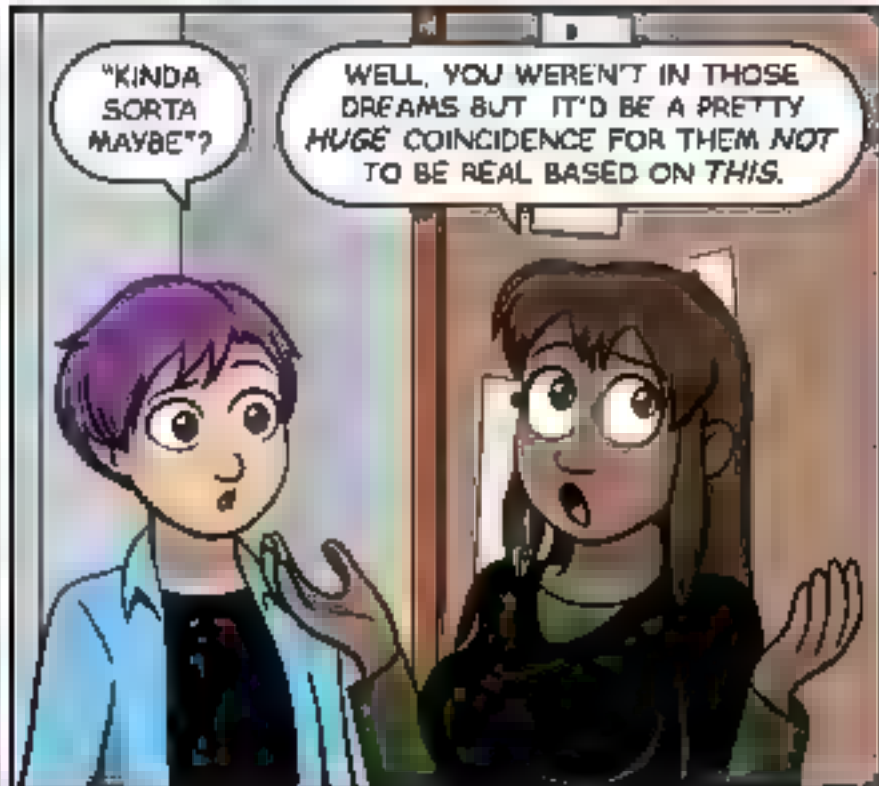
SO I REALLY HAVE A MAGIC MARK? I... I'VE BEEN GIVEN THE POWER TO TURN MYSELF INTO A GIRL?!

KRAK-A-THOOM

WOW THAT'S REDUNDANT

YOU HAVE, WHAT, THREE WAYS OF DOING THAT NOW?

FOUR IF YOU COUNT ASKING ELLEN, AND I'M WORKING ON MORE STILL PRETTY COOL. THOUGH.



I... THINK YOU JUST HAVE TO CONCENTRATE? FOCUS YOUR CHI OR... SOMETHING? MAYBE SCRUNCH UP YOUR FACE?

JUST FOCUS ON CASTING THE SAME SPELL AGAIN AND TRY TO WILL IT TO HAPPEN??

RIGHT MAGIC. SCRUNCHY FACE

GIRLY MORPH, GIRLY MORPH, GIRLY MORPH...

DID IT--IS MY VOICE HIGHER?

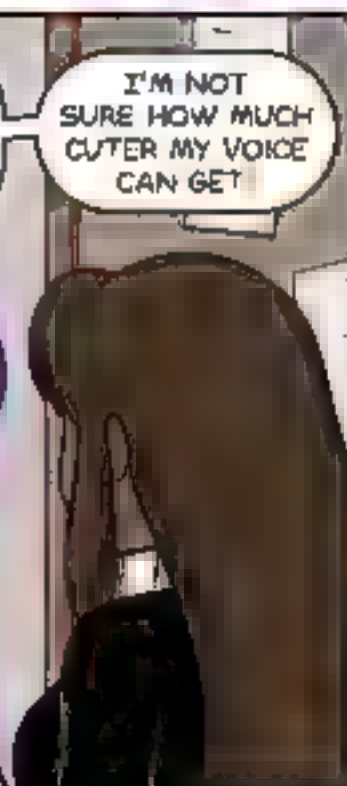
EEP!

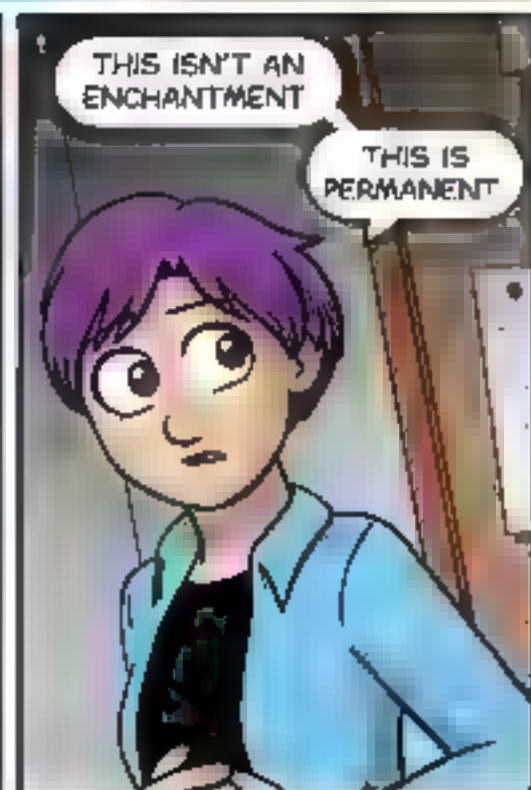
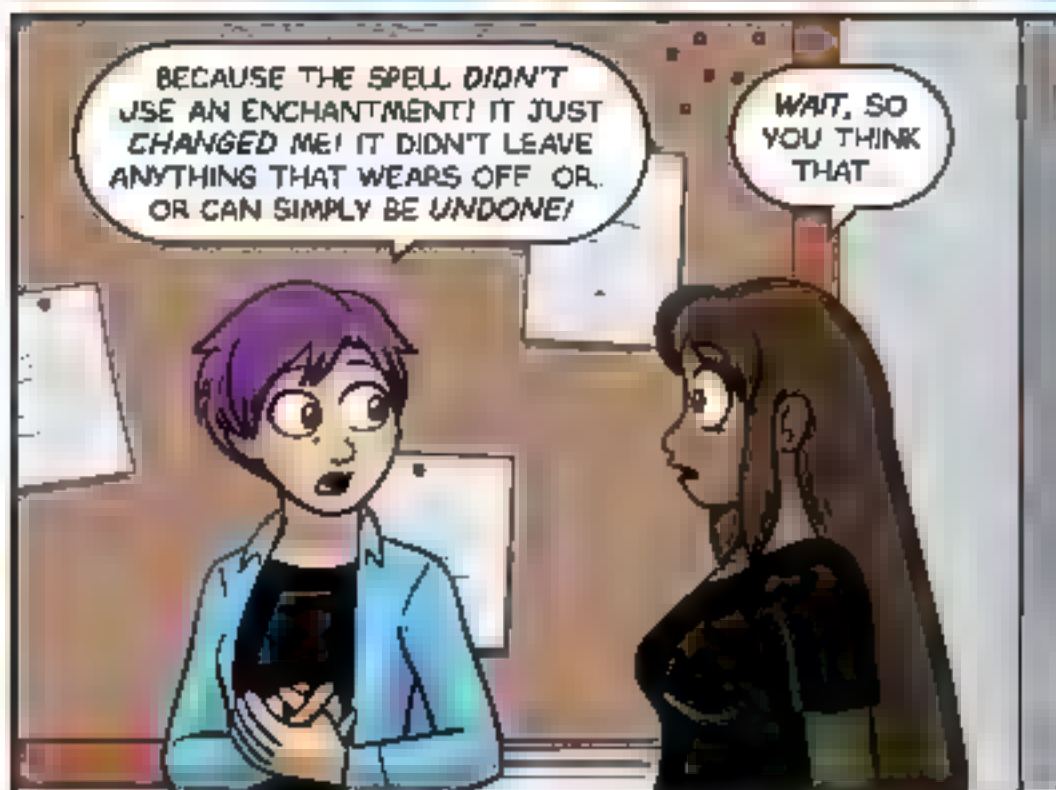
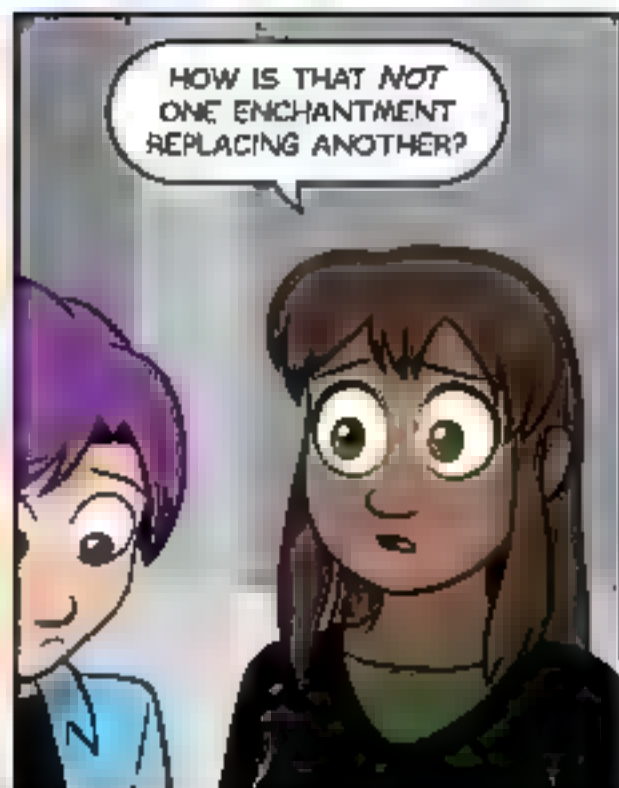
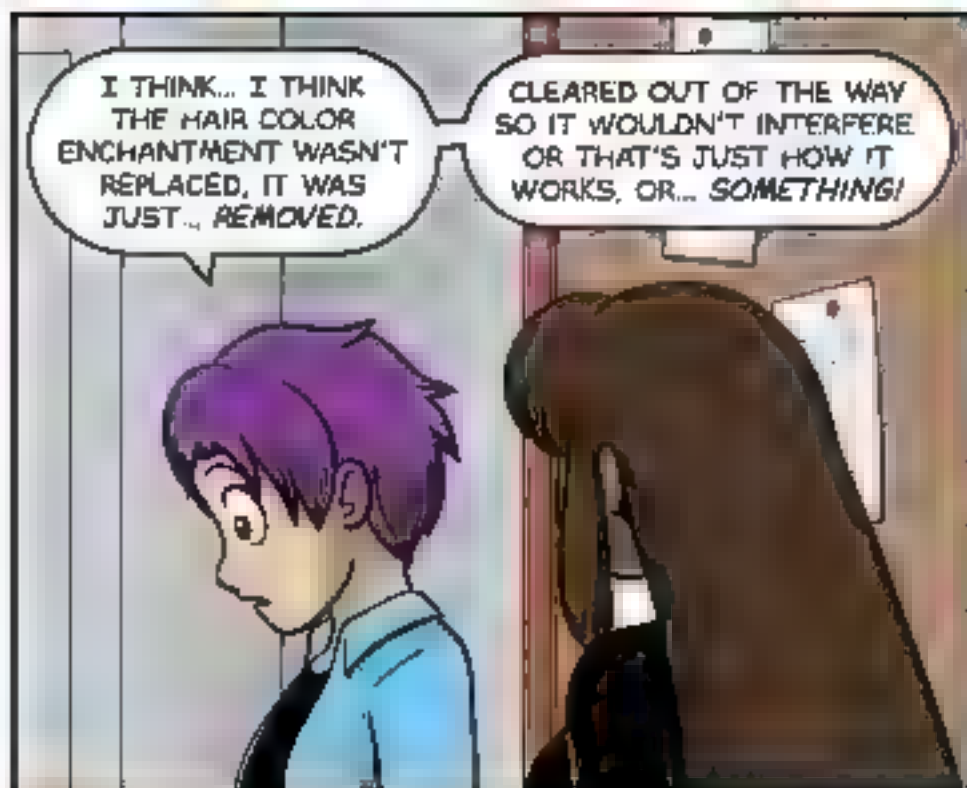
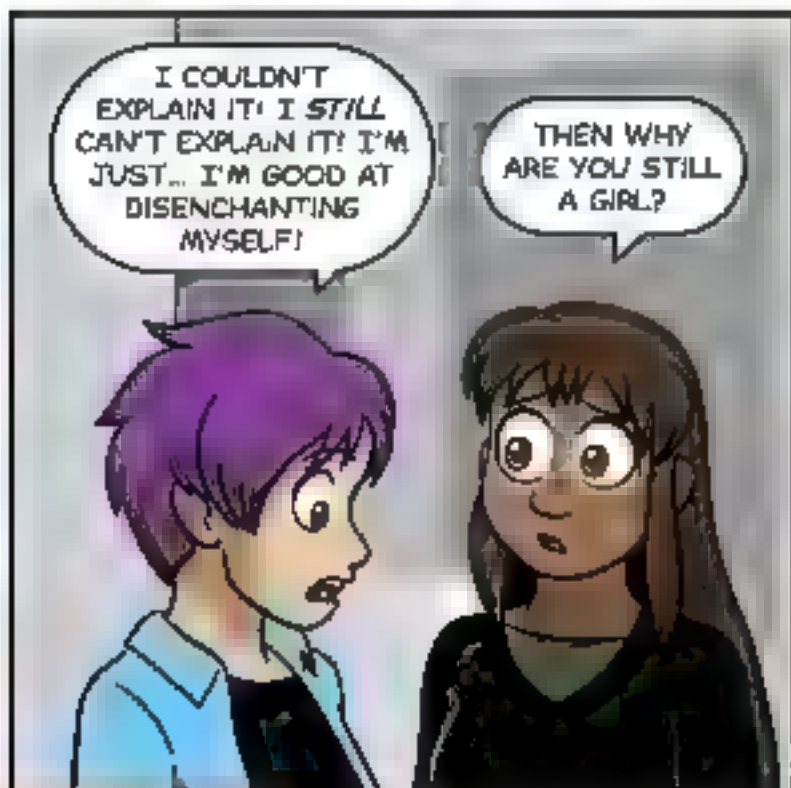
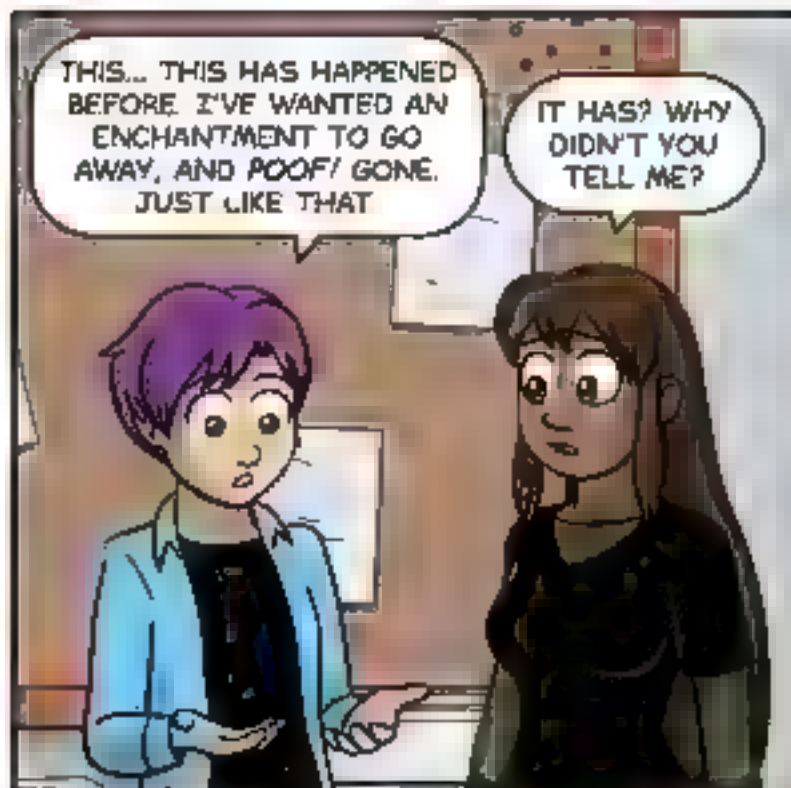
WELL UH AT LEAST THIS CONFIRMS THE MARK...

I DID IT! I ACTUALLY CAST A SPELL!

YES BUT YOU SHOULD TRY AGAIN TO GET BACK TO NORMAL.

EEEEEEEE THIS IS SO COOL!





BUT THAT'S OKAY RIGHT?
IF YOUR SPELL CHANGED
WHAT YOU NORMALLY ARE,
UH... YOUR *DEFAULT FORM*.
IT CAN ALSO CHANGE IT
BACK, RIGHT?



IT SEEMS TO BE A VERY BASIC SEX CHANGE
SPELL, SORTA LIKE FEMALE VARIANT NUMBER
ONE ON THE TF GUN. I *SHOULD* BE ABLE TO
GET BACK TO NORMAL... ASSUMING IT WAS
EVEN MY SPELL THAT DID THIS.



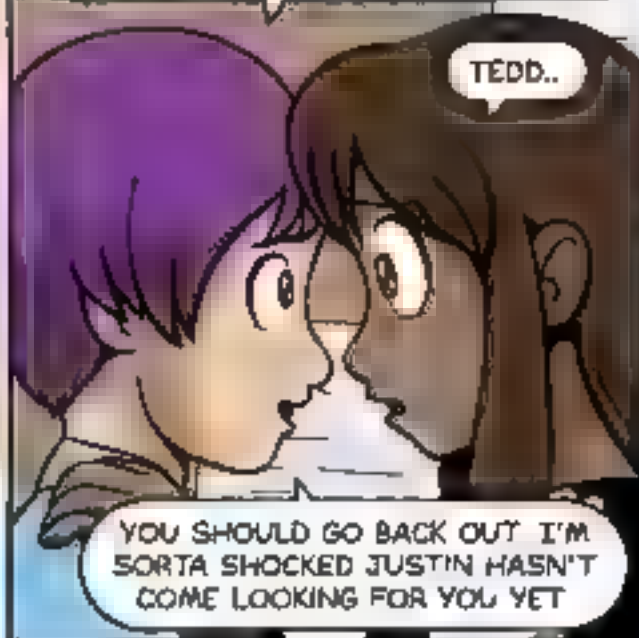
MAYBE WE
SHOULDN'T
MESS WITH IT
FOR NOW FOR
ALL WE KNOW
THAT PIGTAILED
FORM COULD'VE
BECOME YOUR
DEFAULT IF
YOU'D DONE
ANYTHING
DIFFERENTLY!

TRY NOT TO THINK ABOUT
HOW FEW OBJECTIONS
YOU'D HAVE TO THAT



I NEED TO TRY AGAIN FOR
THE SAME REASON WE RUSHED
THIS IN THE FIRST PLACE IF I
DIDN'T DO THIS *SOMEONE*
ELSE DID. WE NEED TO KNOW

WORST CASE SCENARIO I GET TO BE
SMUG ABOUT INSISTING ON KEEPING
CLONE FORM BACKUPS OF OURSELVES.

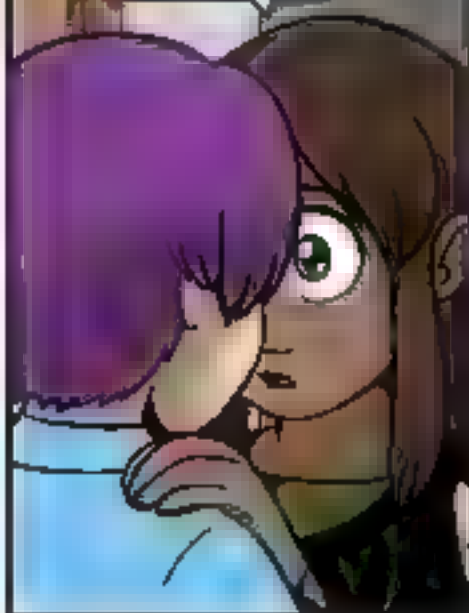


TEDD..

YOU SHOULD GO BACK OUT I'M
SORTA SHOCKED JUSTIN HASN'T
COME LOOKING FOR YOU YET



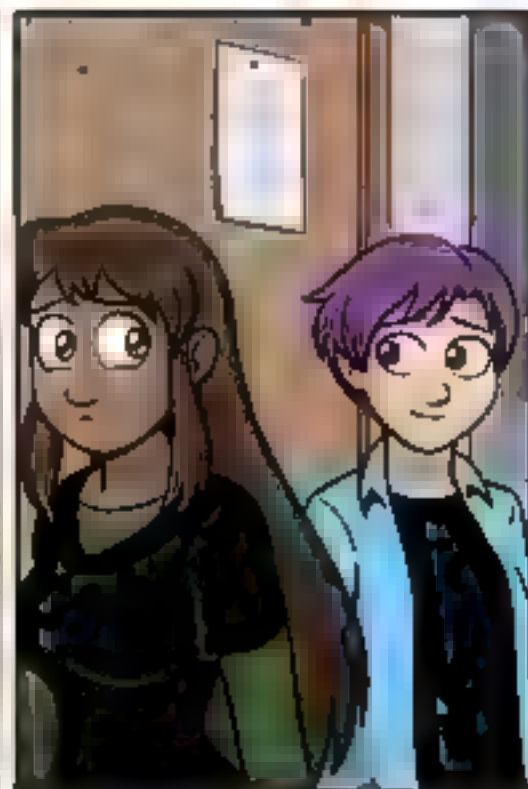
THAT'S NOT
IMPORTANT I'M
HERE FOR YOU

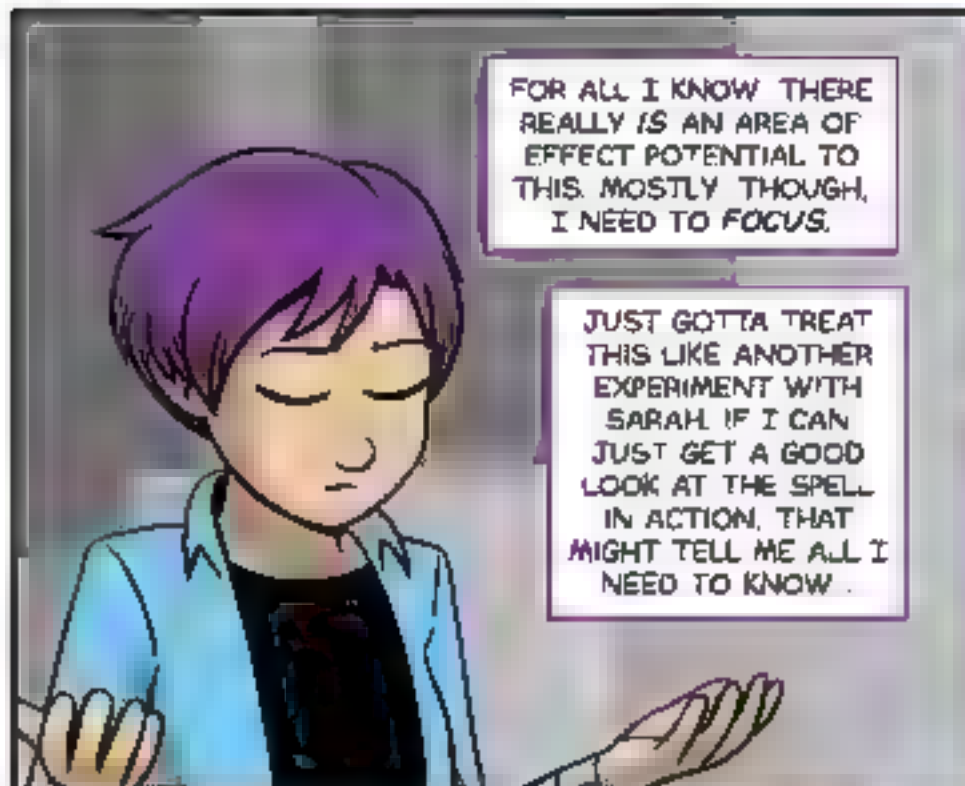


THANK YOU BUT I'M *NOOOT* A
HUNDRED PERCENT CERTAIN
THERE ISN'T POTENTIAL FOR AN
AREA OF EFFECT TO THIS. I'M
NINETY-NINE PERCENT CERTAIN.
BUT I DON'T WANT TO RISK
CHANGING YOU TOO.



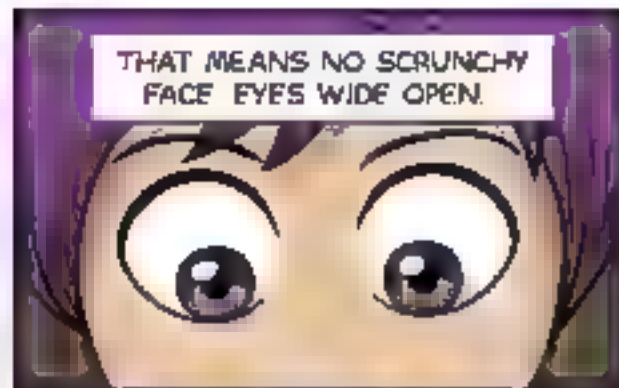
GO BACK OUT
I'LL BE FINE.





FOR ALL I KNOW THERE
REALLY IS AN AREA OF
EFFECT POTENTIAL TO
THIS. MOSTLY THOUGH,
I NEED TO FOCUS.

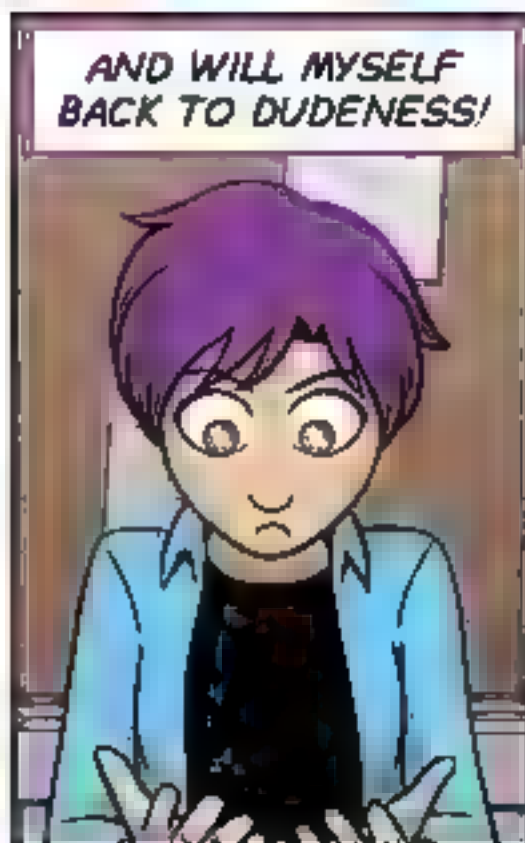
JUST GOTTA TREAT
THIS LIKE ANOTHER
EXPERIMENT WITH
SARAH. IF I CAN
JUST GET A GOOD
LOOK AT THE SPELL
IN ACTION, THAT
MIGHT TELL ME ALL I
NEED TO KNOW.



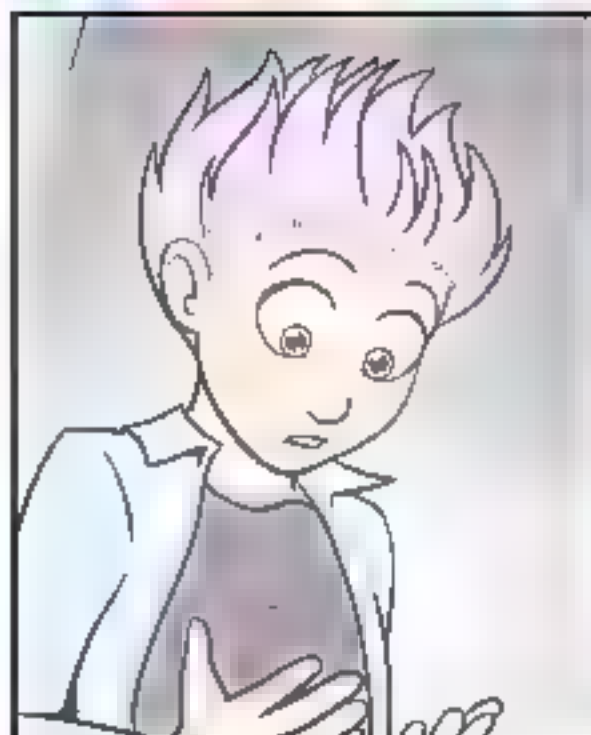
THAT MEANS NO SCRUNCHY
FACE EYES WIDE OPEN.



FOCUSED JUST RIGHT...



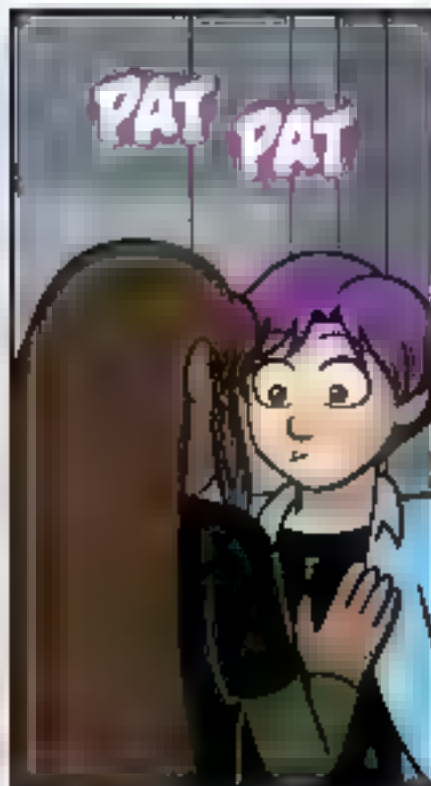
AND WILL MYSELF
BACK TO DUDENESS!



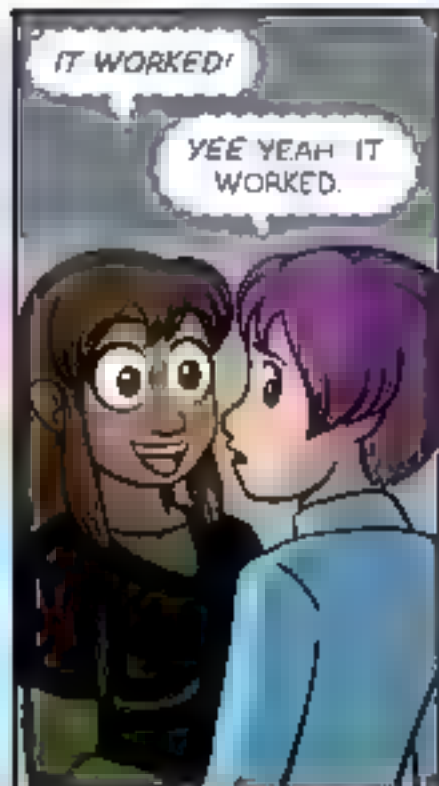
OH. MY
GOD.



TEDD! IT--

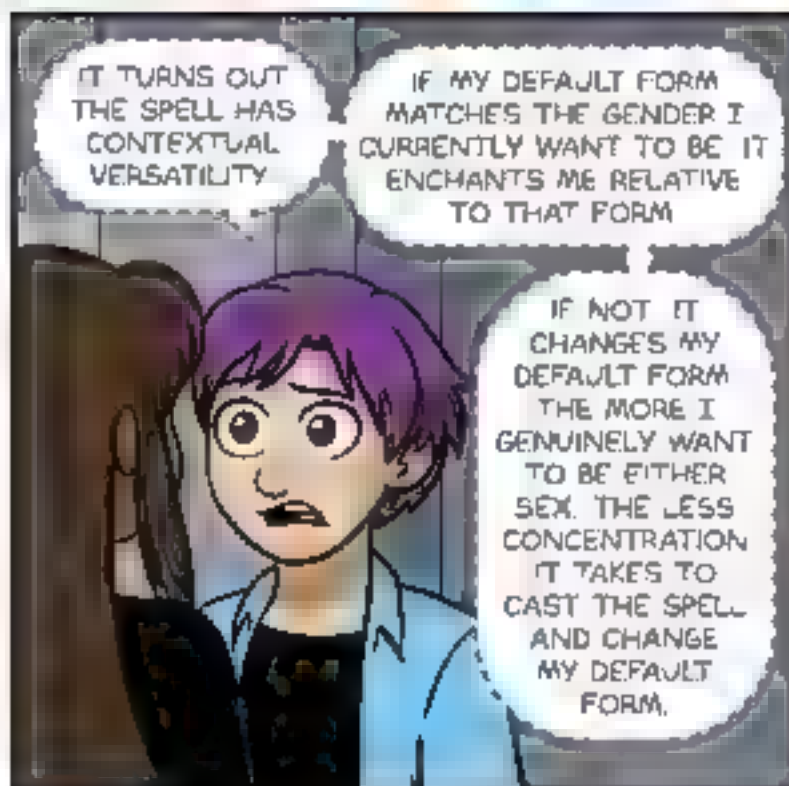


PAT PAT



IT WORKED!

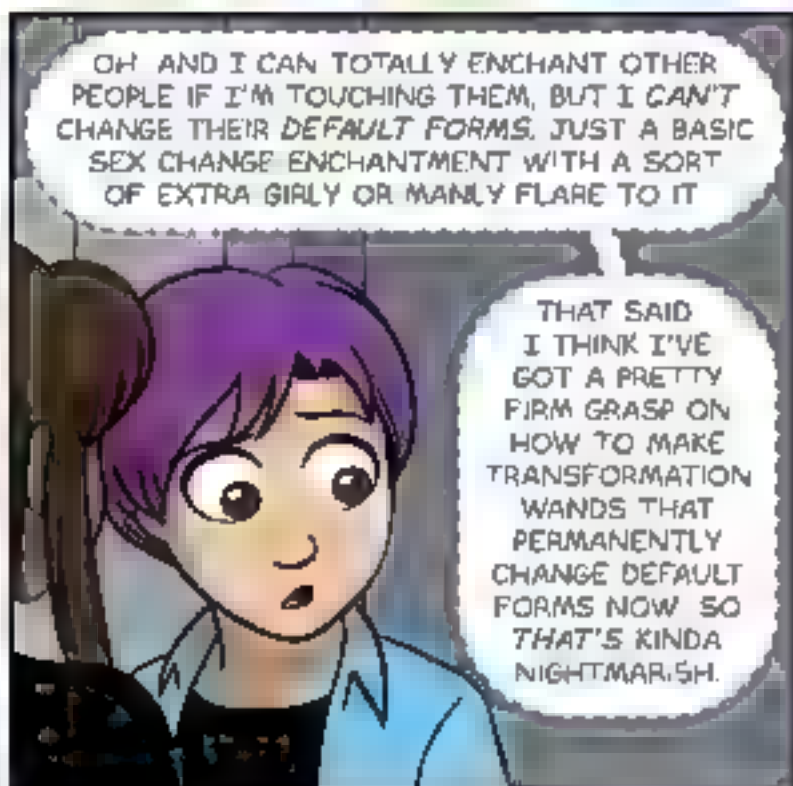
YEE YEAH IT WORKED.



IT TURNS OUT THE SPELL HAS CONTEXTUAL VERSATILITY

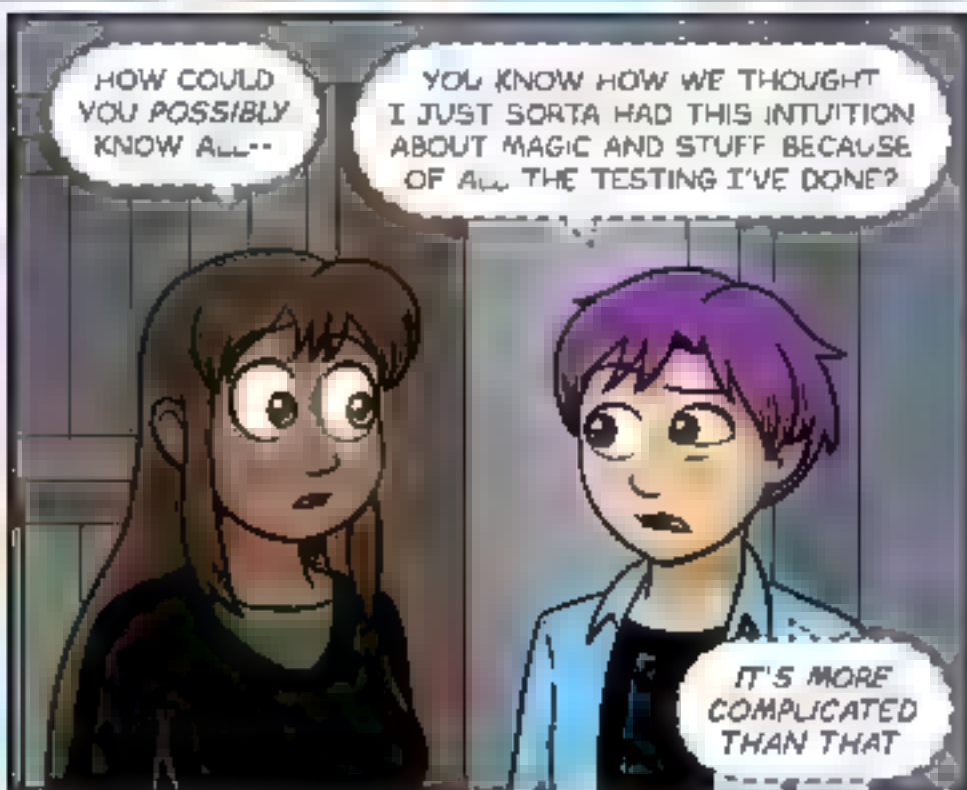
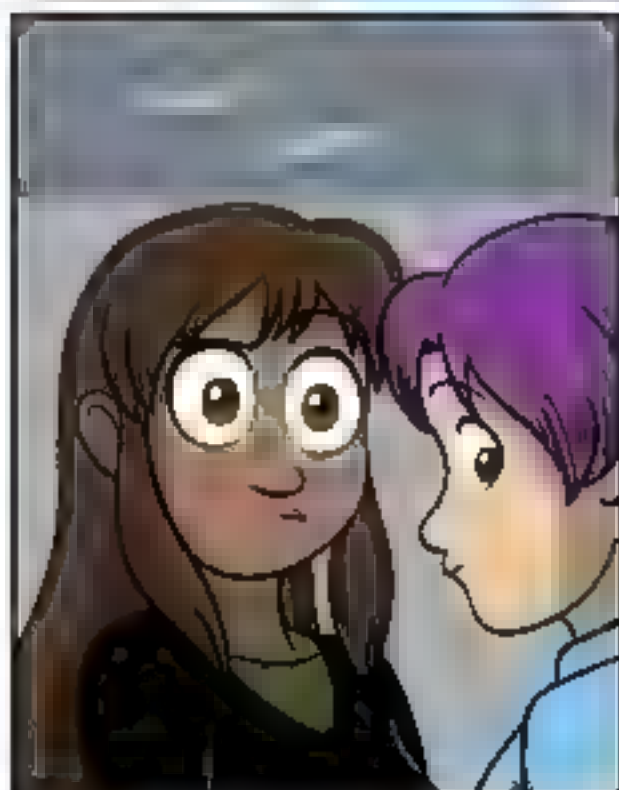
IF MY DEFAULT FORM MATCHES THE GENDER I CURRENTLY WANT TO BE IT ENCHANTS ME RELATIVE TO THAT FORM

IF NOT IT CHANGES MY DEFAULT FORM THE MORE I GENUINELY WANT TO BE EITHER SEX. THE LESS CONCENTRATION IT TAKES TO CAST THE SPELL AND CHANGE MY DEFAULT FORM.



OH AND I CAN TOTALLY ENCHANT OTHER PEOPLE IF I'M TOUCHING THEM, BUT I CAN'T CHANGE THEIR DEFAULT FORMS. JUST A BASIC SEX CHANGE ENCHANTMENT WITH A SORT OF EXTRA GIRLY OR MANLY FLARE TO IT

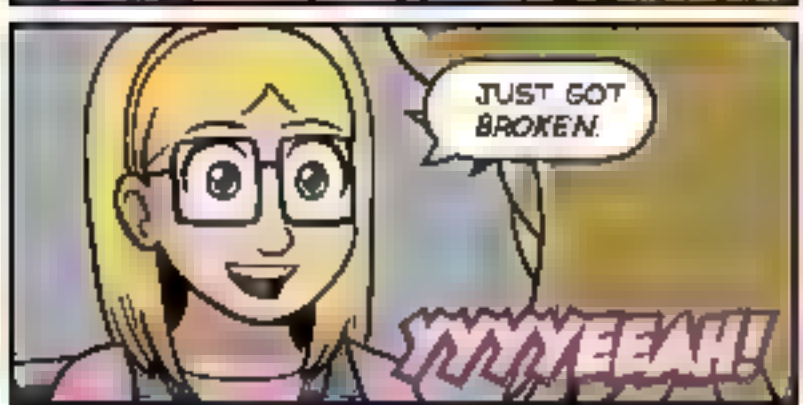
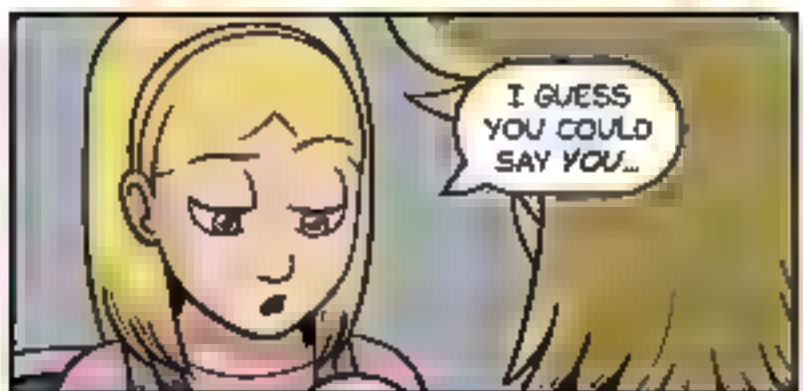
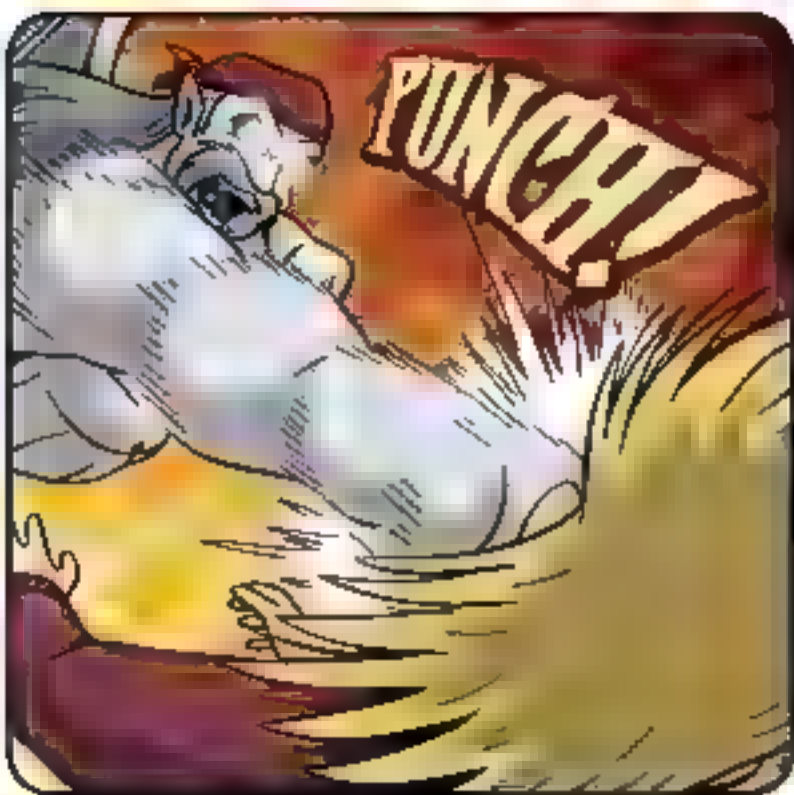
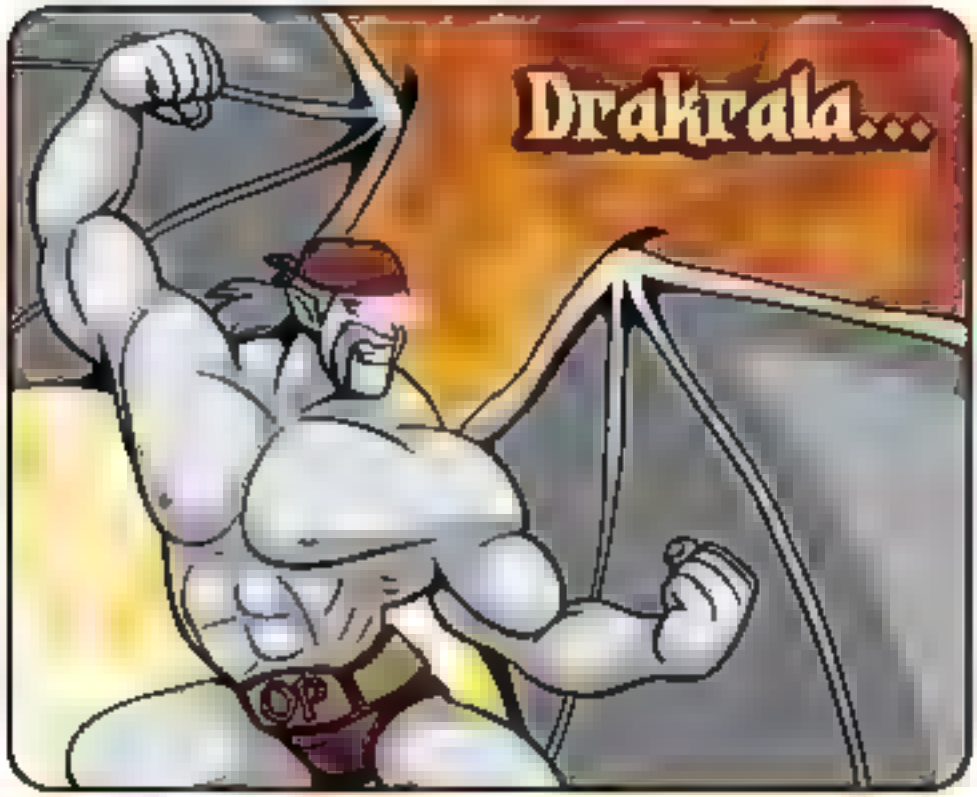
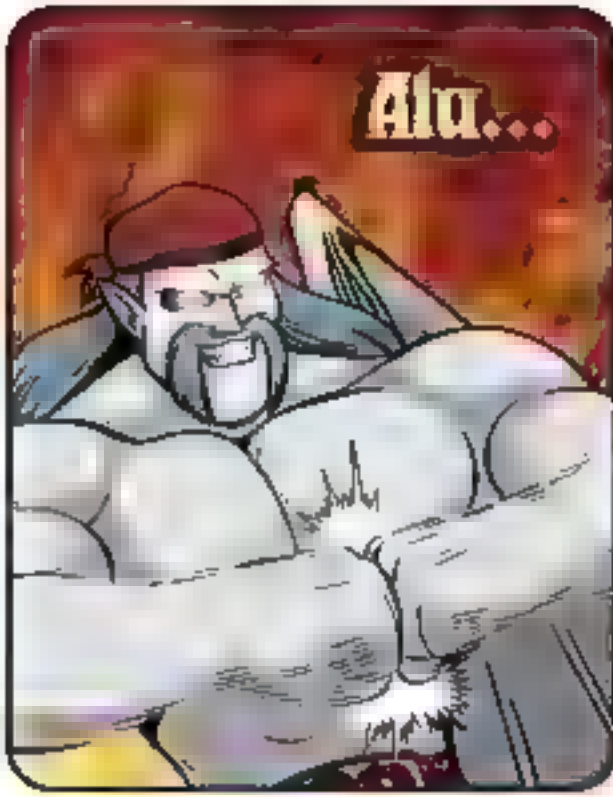
THAT SAID I THINK I'VE GOT A PRETTY FIRM GRASP ON HOW TO MAKE TRANSFORMATION WANDS THAT PERMANENTLY CHANGE DEFAULT FORMS NOW SO THAT'S KINDA NIGHTMARISH.

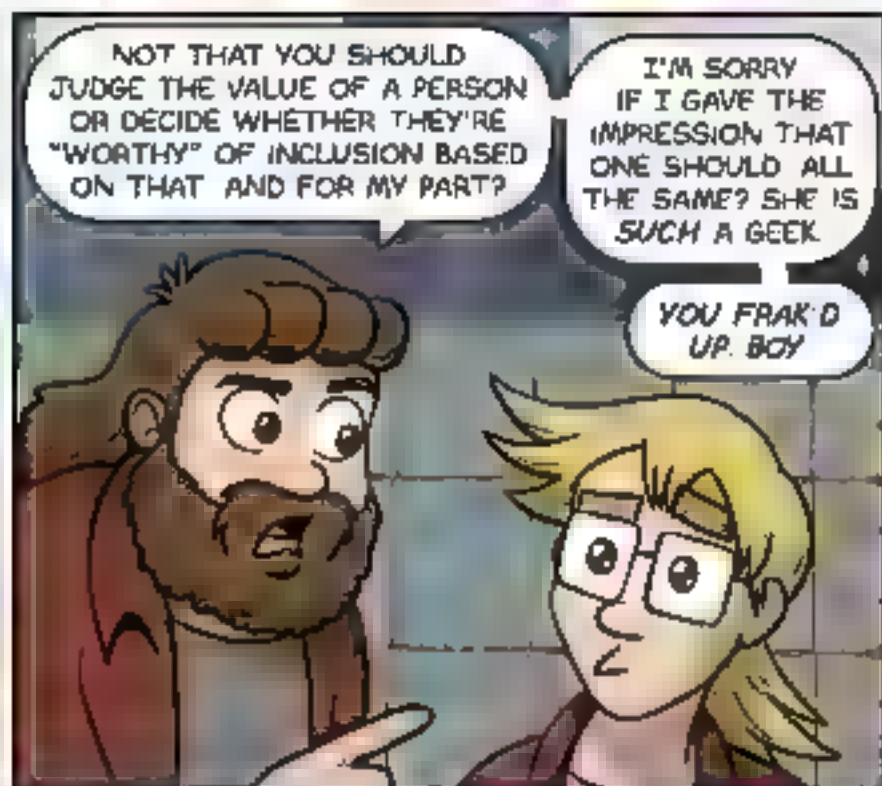
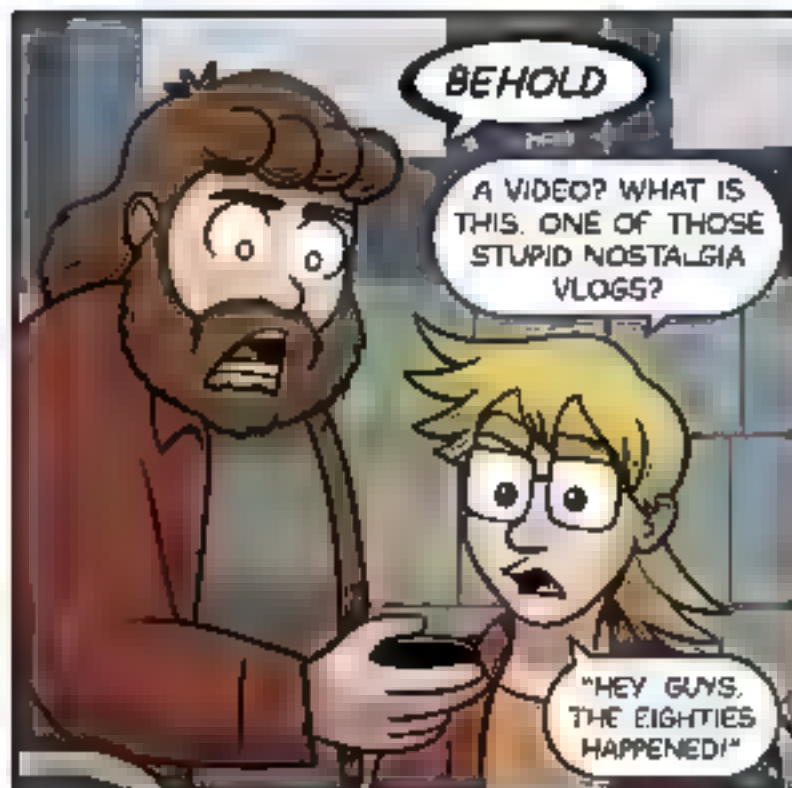


HOW COULD YOU POSSIBLY KNOW ALL--

YOU KNOW HOW WE THOUGHT I JUST SORTA HAD THIS INTUITION ABOUT MAGIC AND STUFF BECAUSE OF ALL THE TESTING I'VE DONE?

IT'S MORE COMPLICATED THAN THAT

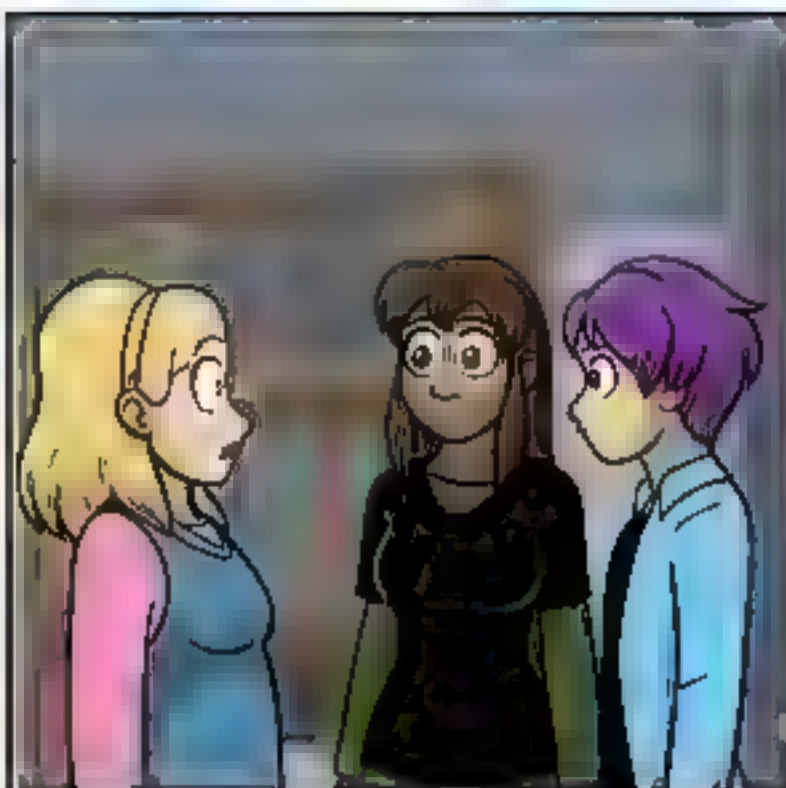
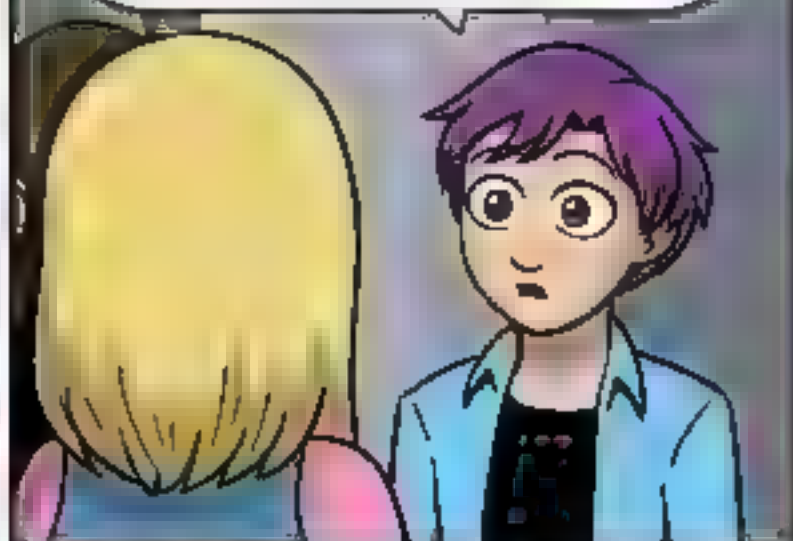




UGH. THAT MATCH
COULD NOT END FAST ENOUGH.
HOW'D YOU DO TEDD?



AN IMMORTAL MARKED THE BACK OF MY
HEAD. I INADVERTENTLY TURNED MYSELF
INTO A GIRL (WHICH IS WHY MY HAIR IS BACK
TO PURPLE), AND I APPARENTLY HAVE SOME
SORT OF ABILITY THAT GIVES ME INSIGHT
INTO SPELLS AND ENCHANTMENTS.

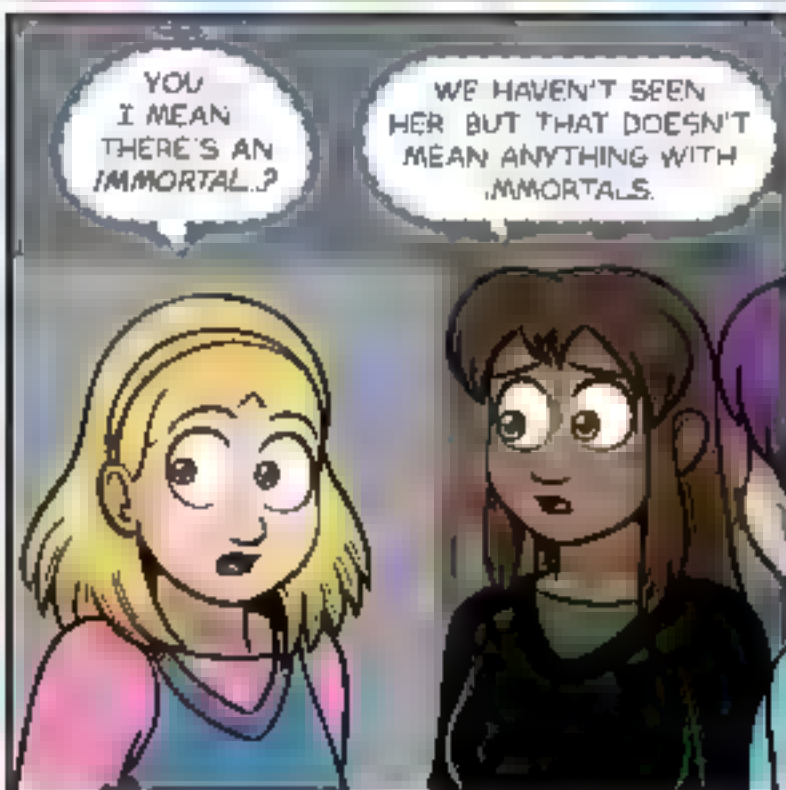


OH, AND I WON
THE CARD GAMES



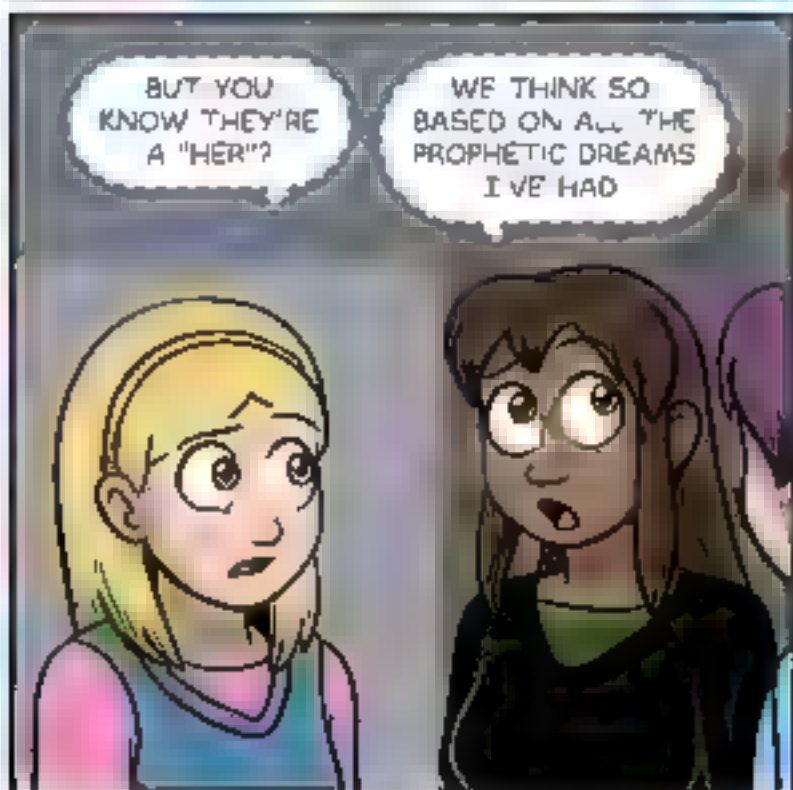
YOU
I MEAN
THERE'S AN
IMMORTAL?

WE HAVEN'T SEEN
HER BUT THAT DOESN'T
MEAN ANYTHING WITH
IMMORTALS.



BUT YOU
KNOW THEY'RE
A "HER"?

WE THINK SO
BASED ON ALL THE
PROPHETIC DREAMS
I'VE HAD



AND... WHERE TO EVEN BEGIN?
YOU HAVE MAGIC NOW?

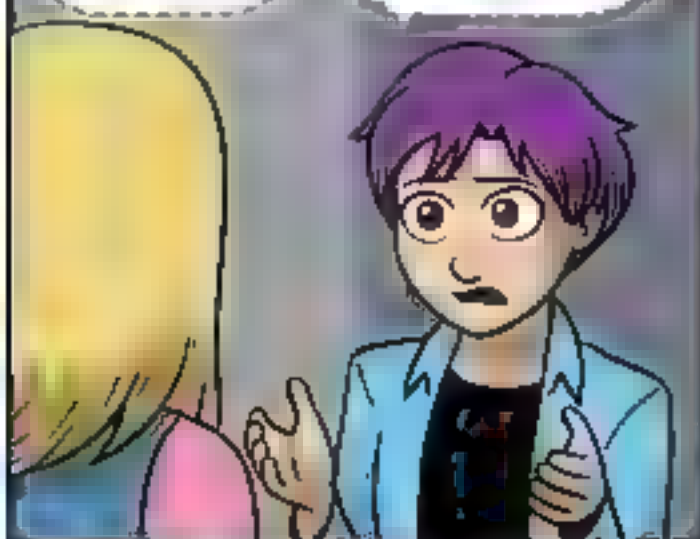
AND SOME SORT OF
MAGIC INTUITION?

A GENDER
BASED SPELL
YEAH



I UH. I'M
PRETTY SURE
I'VE HAD THAT
FOR A WHILE,
ACTUALLY I
JUST NEVER...

OKAY YOU
KNOW HOW IF YOU
FOCUS YOUR EYES
JUST RIGHT YOU
CAN SORT OF "SEE"
MAGIC?



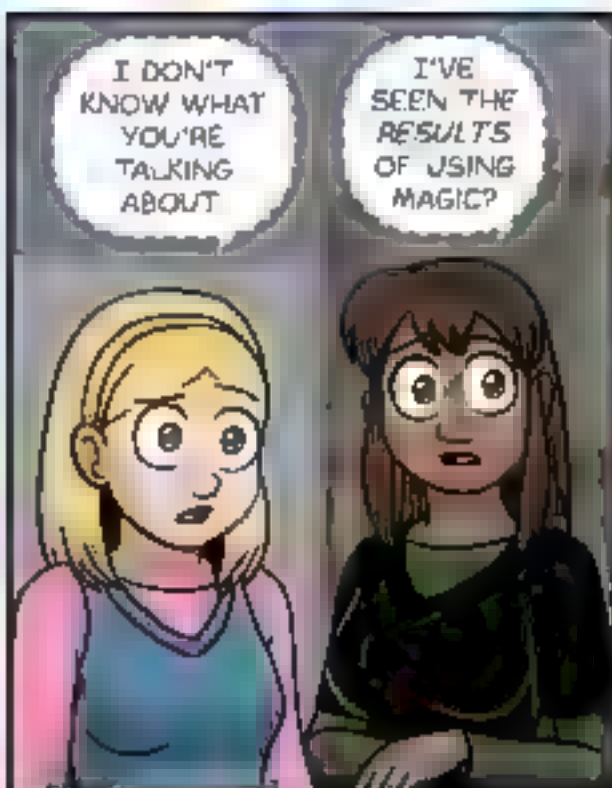
NO

WELL--WAIT
WHAT? NO?



I DON'T
KNOW WHAT
YOU'RE
TALKING
ABOUT

I'VE
SEEN THE
RESULTS
OF USING
MAGIC?

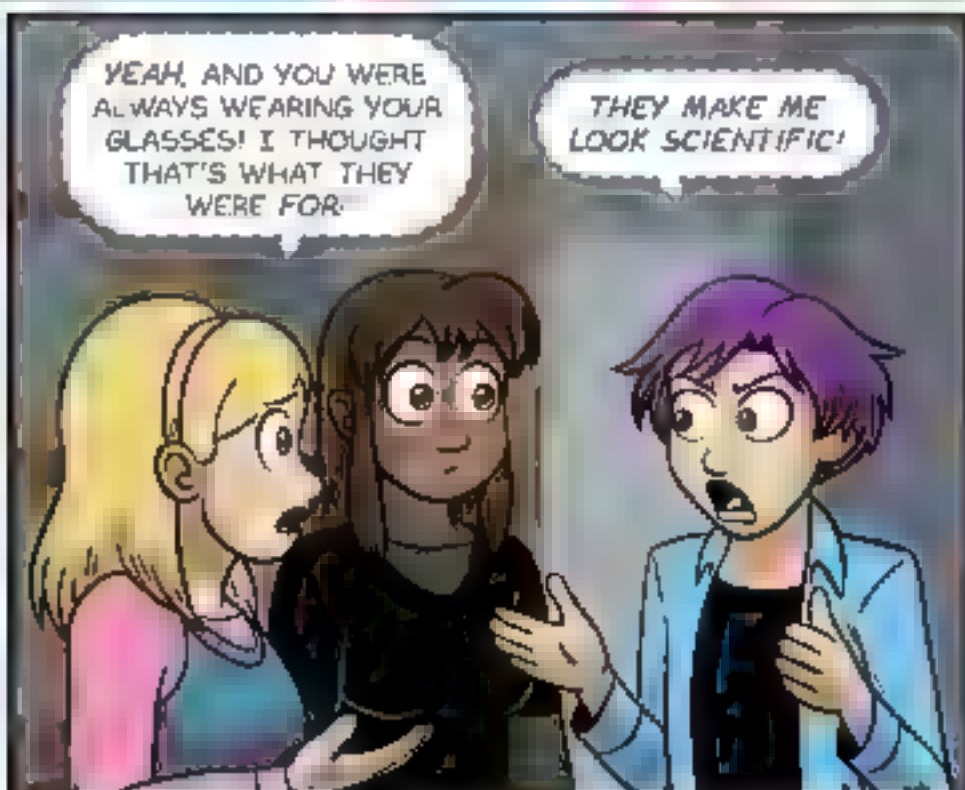


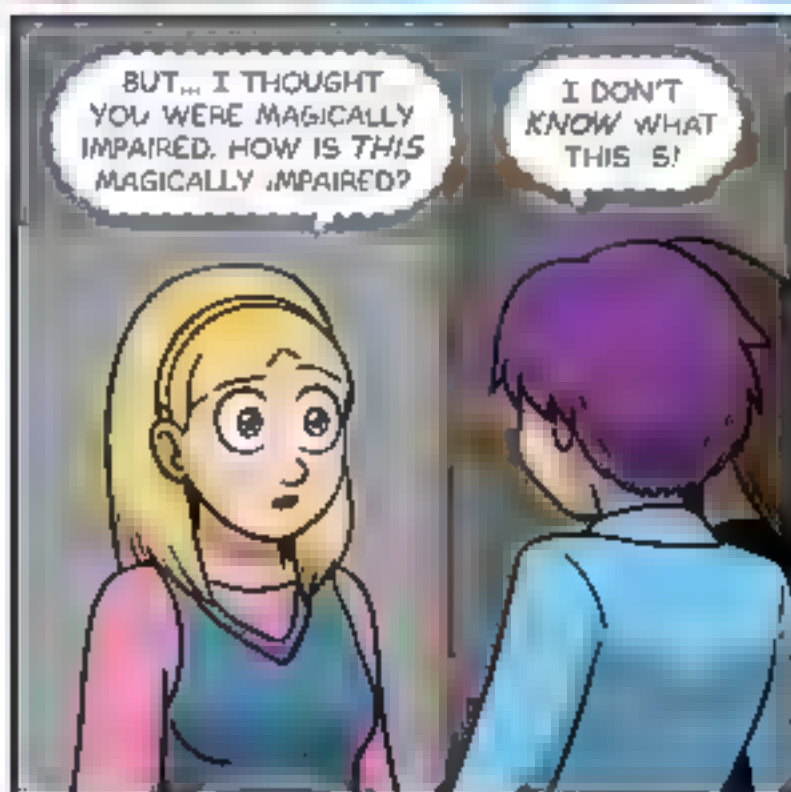
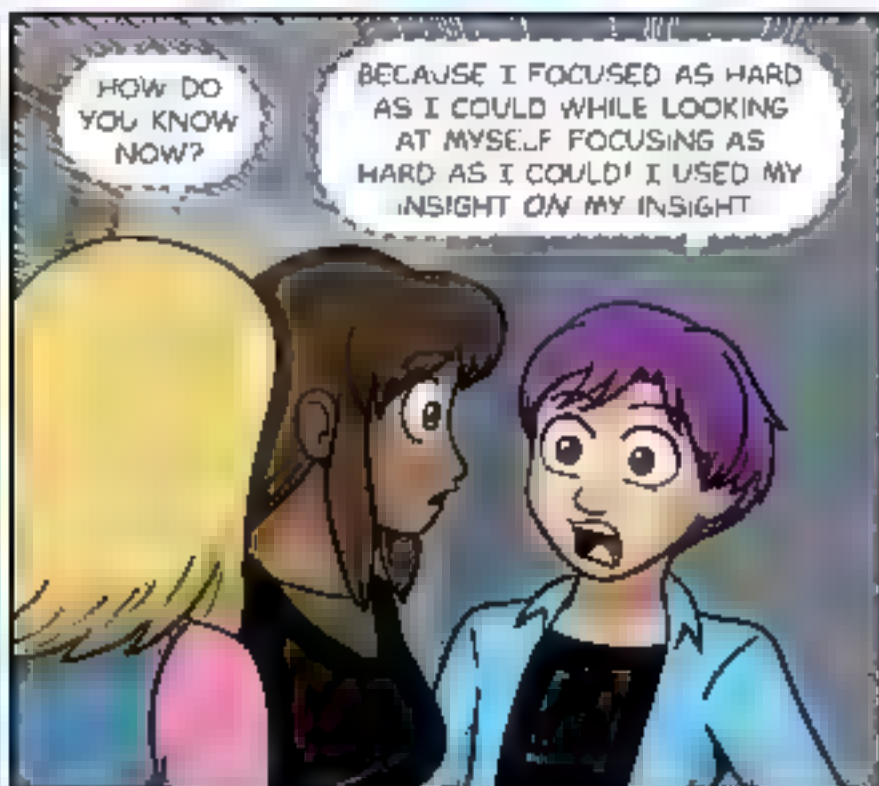
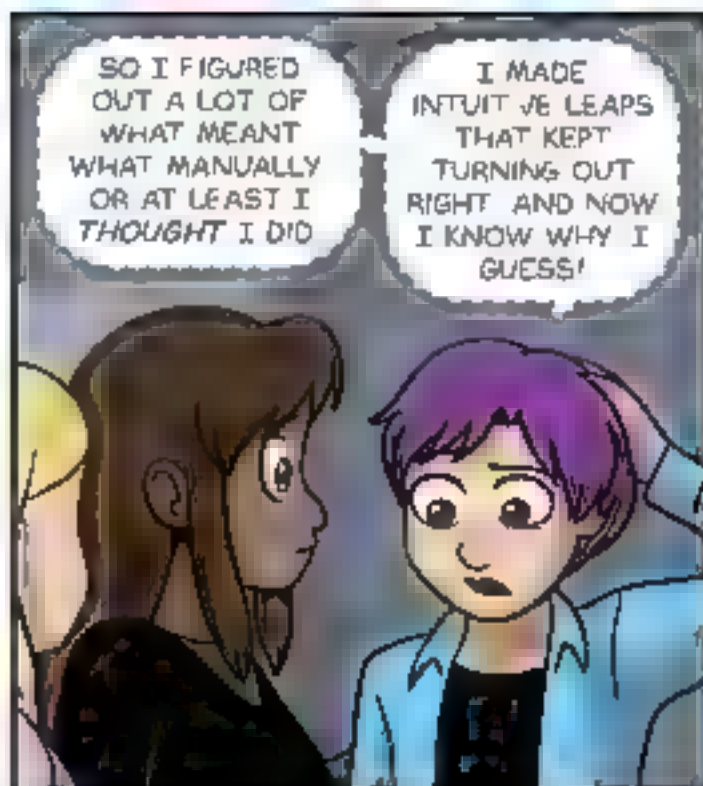
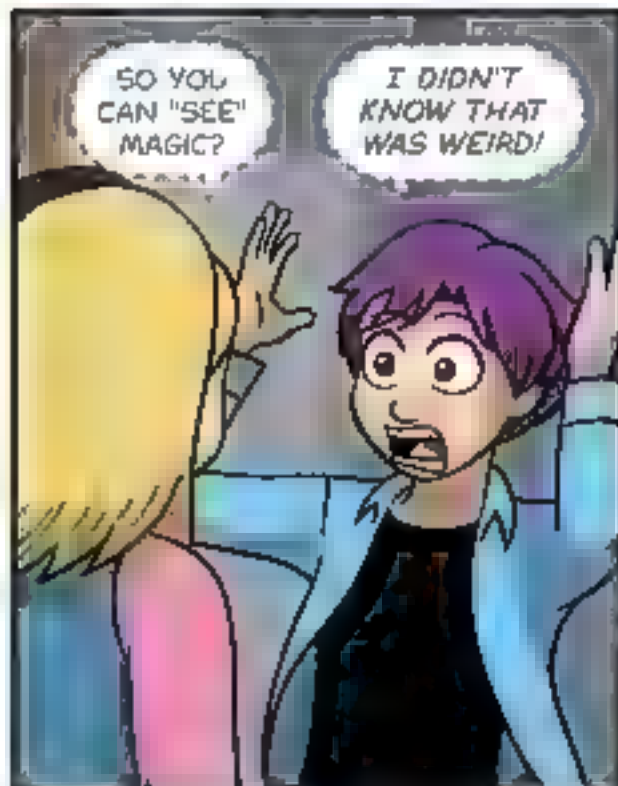
BUT... I DO IT ALL THE
TIME! IT'S WHY I NEEDED
TO WATCH YOU TRANSFORM
ALL THOSE TIMES!

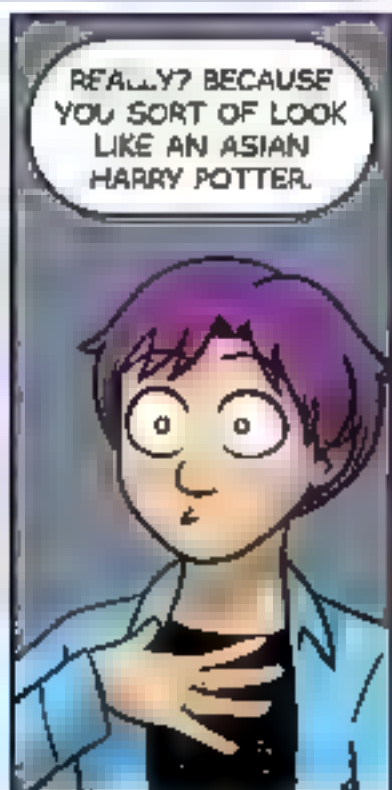
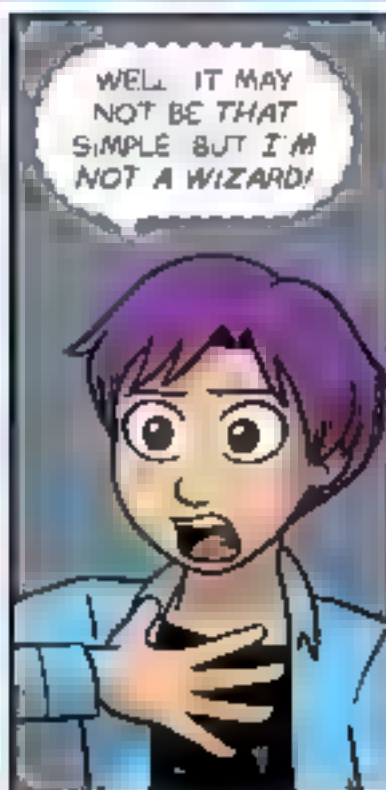
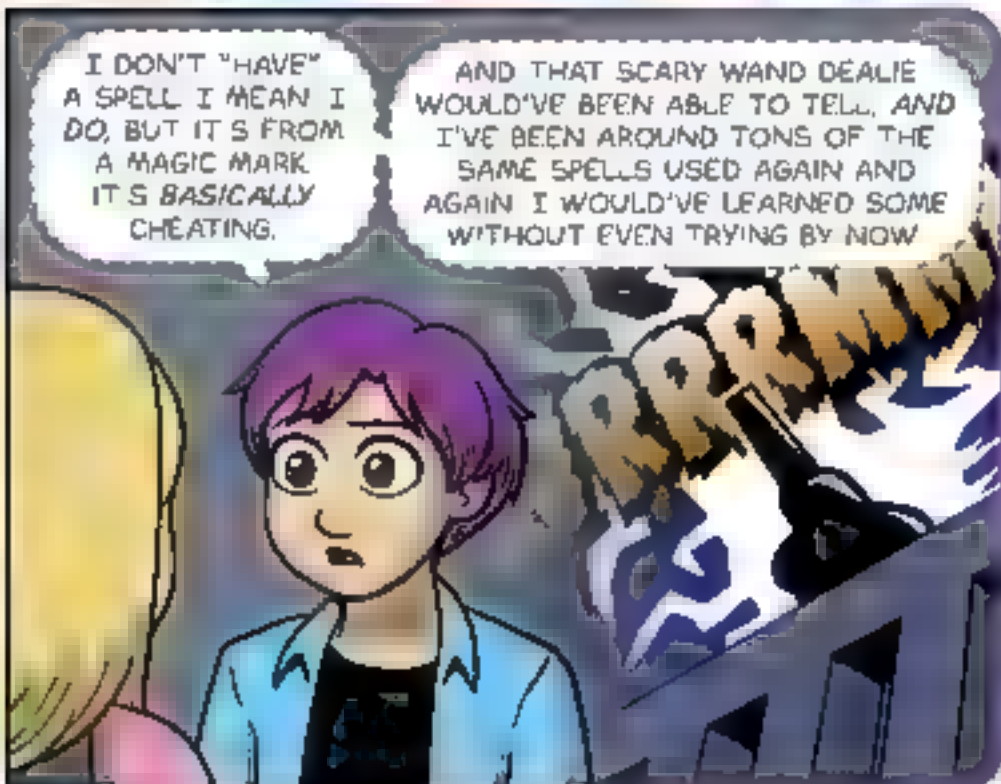
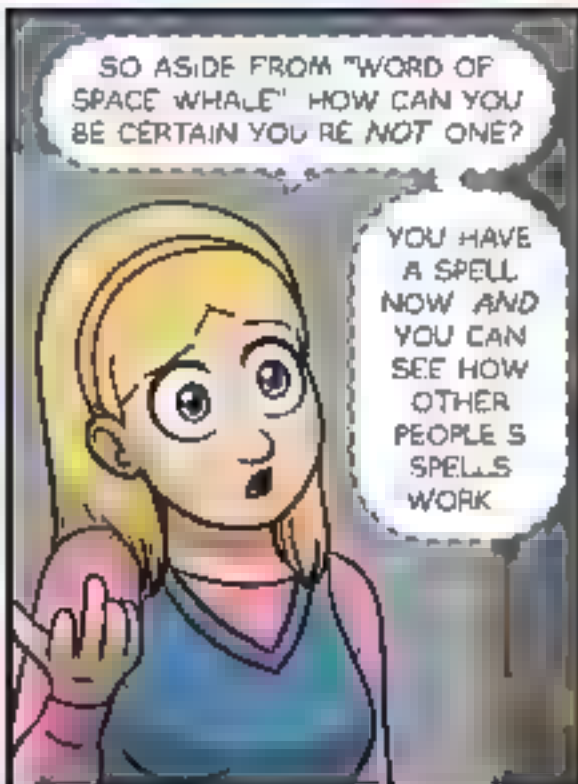


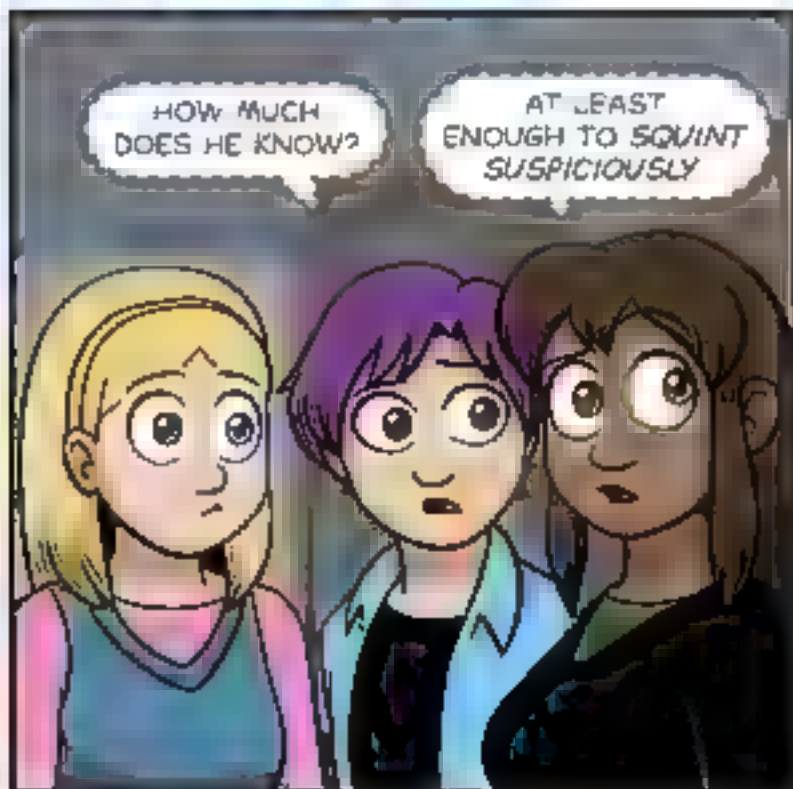
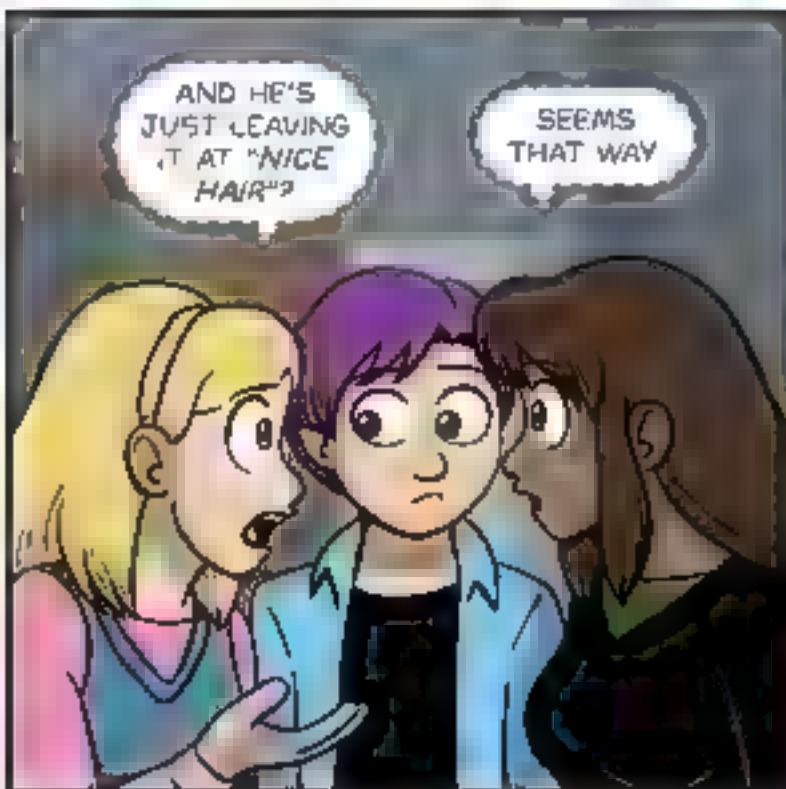
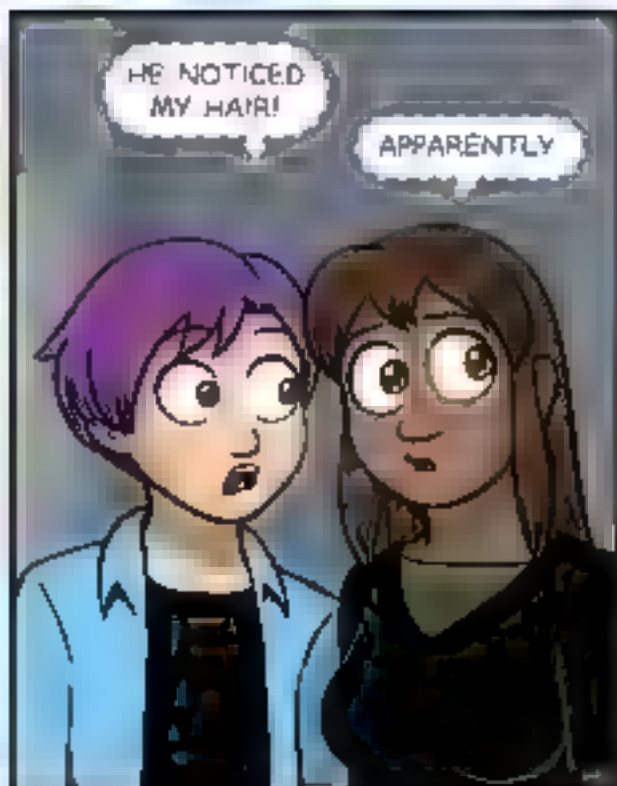
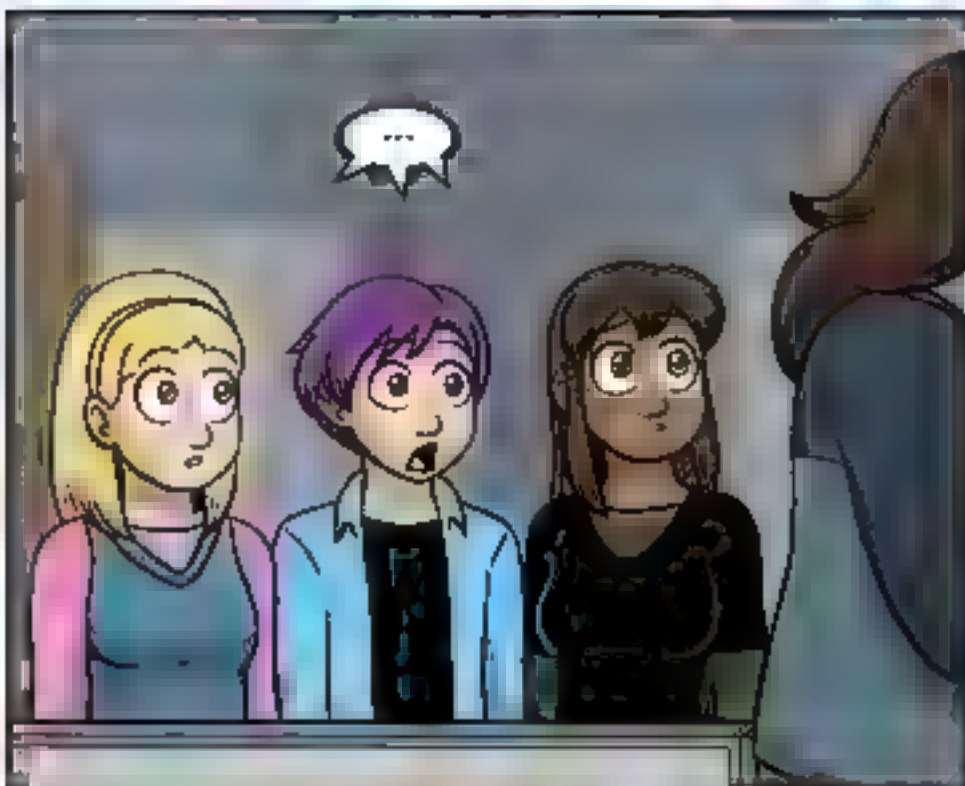
YEAH, AND YOU WERE
ALWAYS WEARING YOUR
GLASSES! I THOUGHT
THAT'S WHAT THEY
WERE FOR.

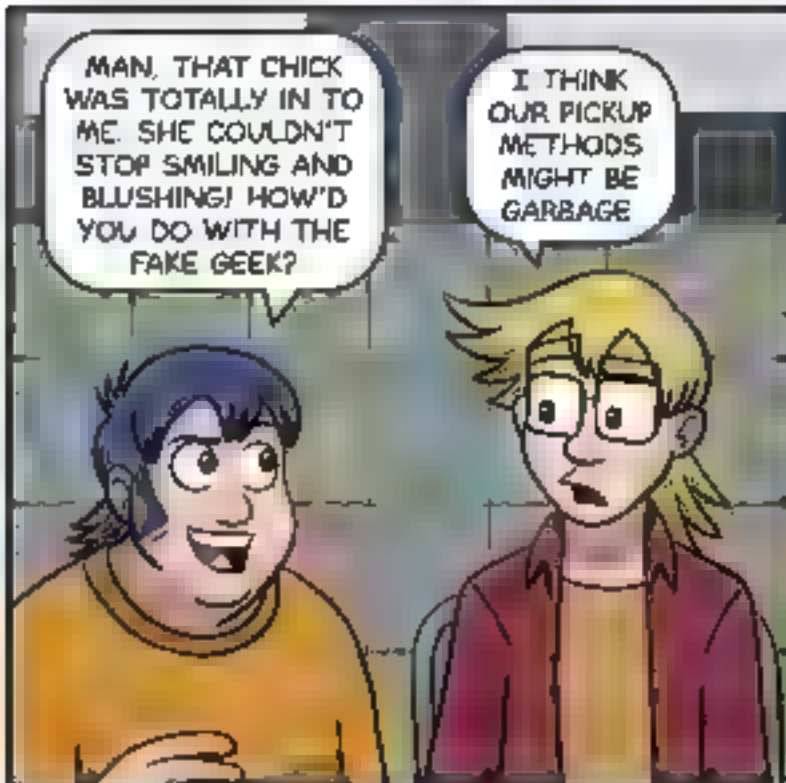
THEY MAKE ME
LOOK SCIENTIFIC!











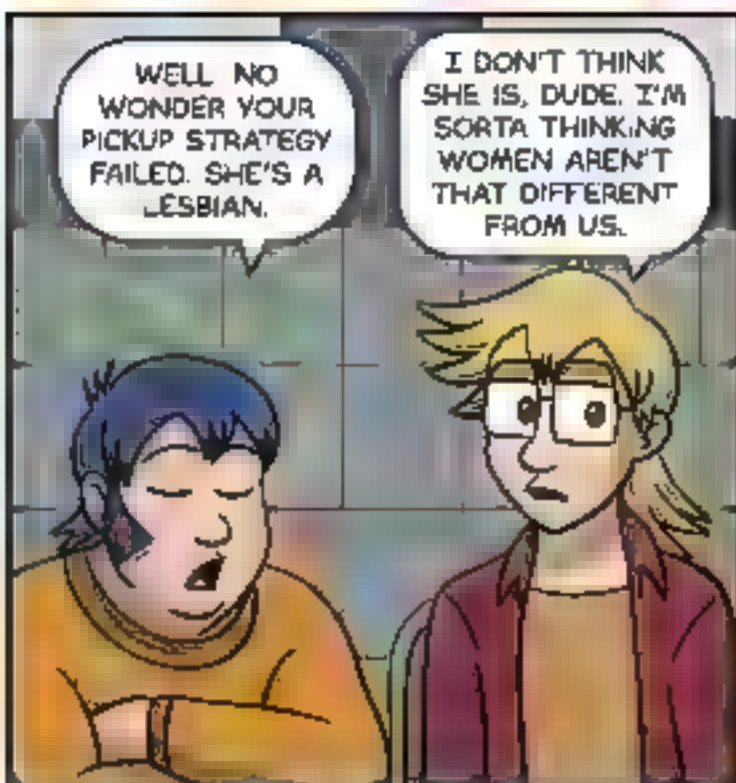
MAN, THAT CHICK WAS TOTALLY IN TO ME. SHE COULDN'T STOP SMILING AND BLUSHING! HOW'D YOU DO WITH THE FAKE GEEK?

I THINK OUR PICKUP METHODS MIGHT BE GARBAGE



YOU BITE YOUR TONGUE! AND DID I NOT JUST SAY HOW SMOOTH MY MOVES WERE?

I'M SERIOUS. THAT SARAH GIRL WAS... SHE WAS LIKE A GUY BUT WITH BOOBS.



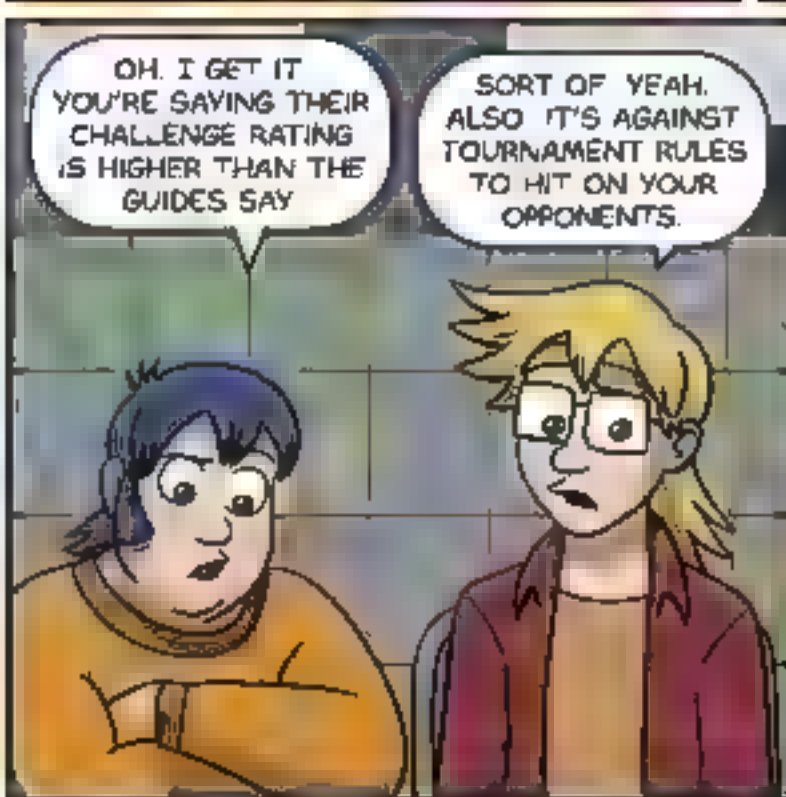
WELL NO WONDER YOUR PICKUP STRATEGY FAILED. SHE'S A LESBIAN.

I DON'T THINK SHE IS, DUDE. I'M SORTA THINKING WOMEN AREN'T THAT DIFFERENT FROM US.



NOT THAT DIFFERENT FROM YOU. MAYBE COME ON. THEY'RE LOADED UP WITH GIRLY HORMONES. THEY'RE GIRLY THAT'S WHAT MAKES THEM GIRLS!

YEAH. BUT THEY'RE STILL PEOPLE YOU KNOW? THEY'RE MORE COMPLICATED THAN OUR GUIDES SAY



OH. I GET IT YOU'RE SAYING THEIR CHALLENGE RATING IS HIGHER THAN THE GUIDES SAY

SORT OF YEAH. ALSO IT'S AGAINST TOURNAMENT RULES TO HIT ON YOUR OPPONENTS.



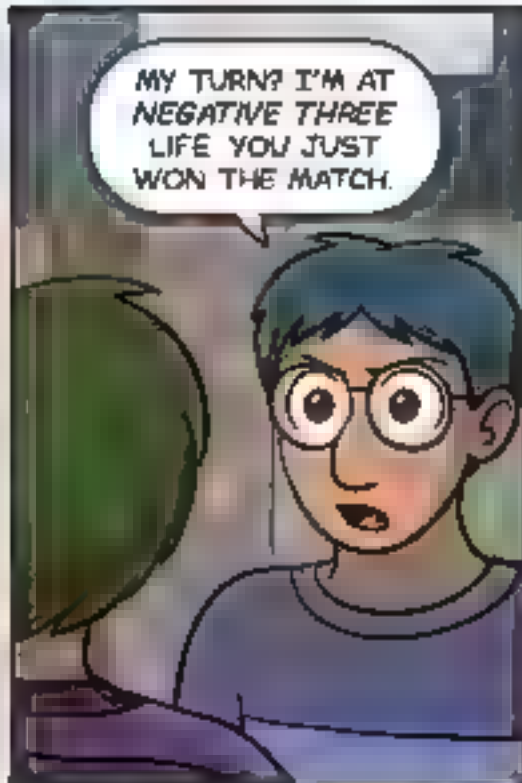
BUT THAT'S AT LEAST TWO GAMES THEY'RE STUCK WITH YOU UNLESS THEY FORFEIT! IT'S PERFECT!

I THINK THAT'S ONE OF THE REASONS IT'S AGAINST THE RULES.

RULES WRITTEN BY MAN-HATING FEMINISTS!



OKAY, UH...
PHFT- YOUR
TURN.



MY TURN? I'M AT
NEGATIVE THREE
LIFE YOU JUST
WON THE MATCH.



I DID?
OH, UH...

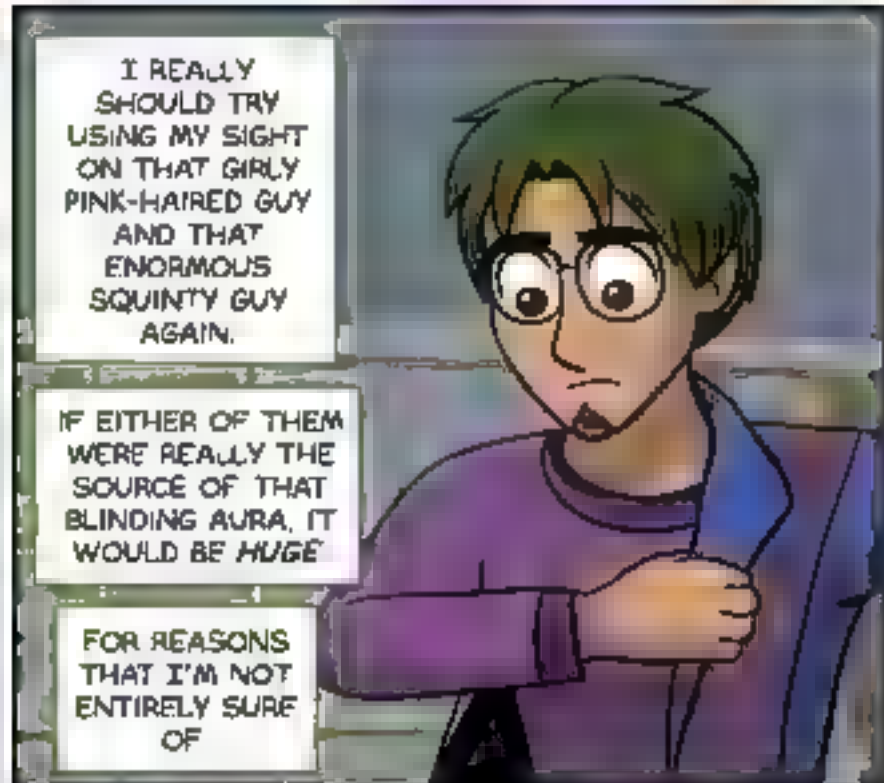
GREAT
THAT'S
GREAT ADD
INSULT TO
INJURY

HERE'S
THE
RESULTS
SLIP YOU
TAKE IT
UP



RIGHT
SORRY

SO DISTRACTED
BUT HEY I GUESS
I CAN STILL WIN
ON A SORT OF
MENTAL AUTO-
PILOT AT THIS
POINT GO ME



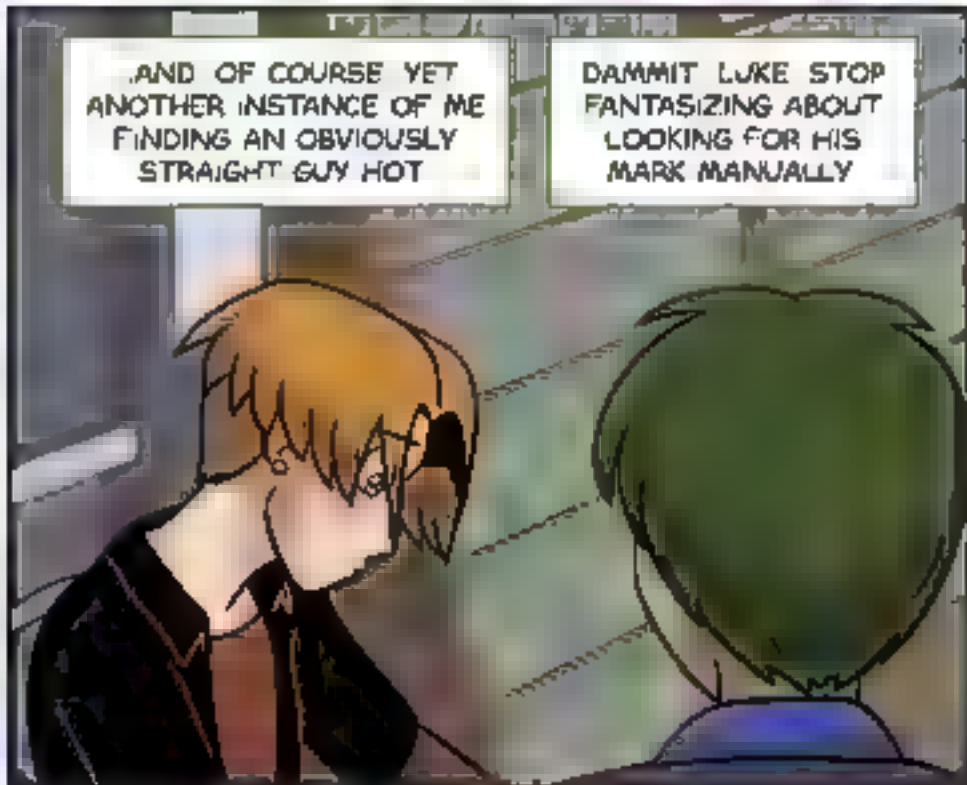
I REALLY
SHOULD TRY
USING MY SIGHT
ON THAT GIRLY
PINK-HAIRED GUY
AND THAT
ENORMOUS
SQUINTY GUY
AGAIN.

IF EITHER OF THEM
WERE REALLY THE
SOURCE OF THAT
BLINDING AURA, IT
WOULD BE HUGE

FOR REASONS
THAT I'M NOT
ENTIRELY SURE
OF

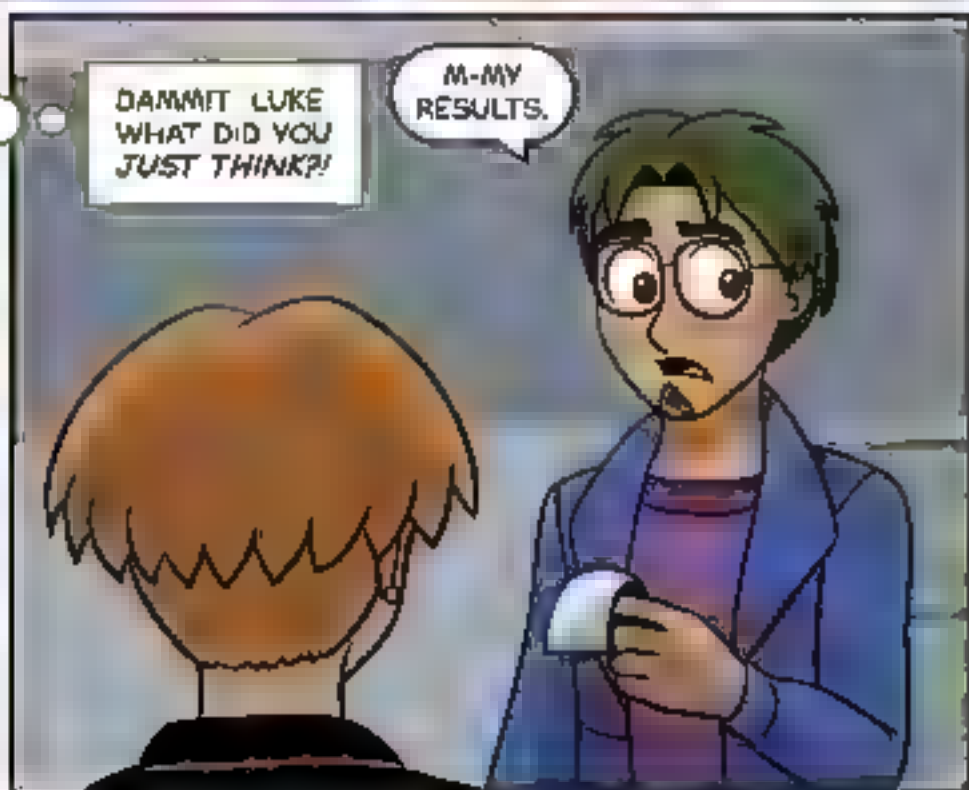
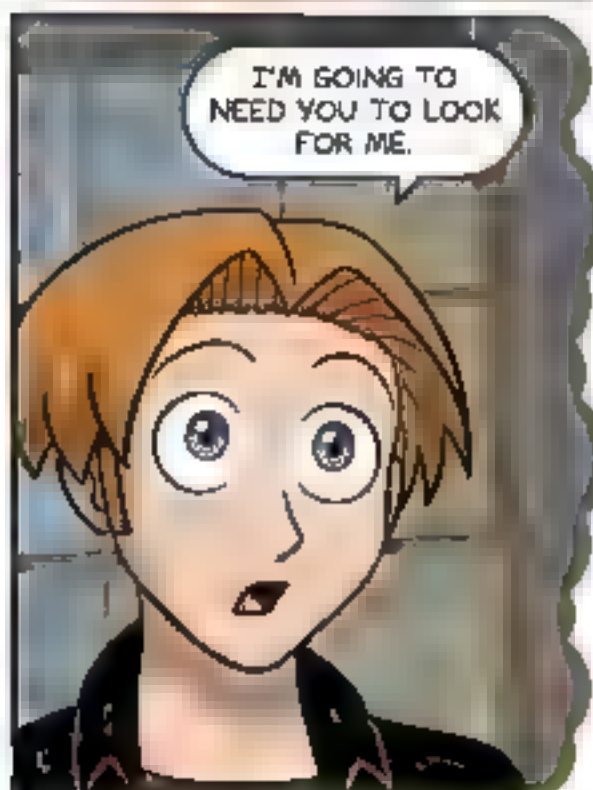
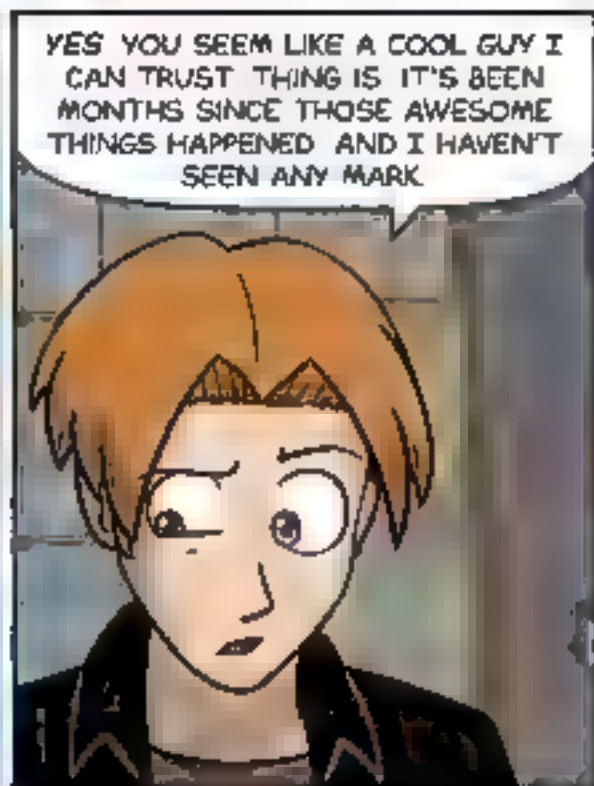
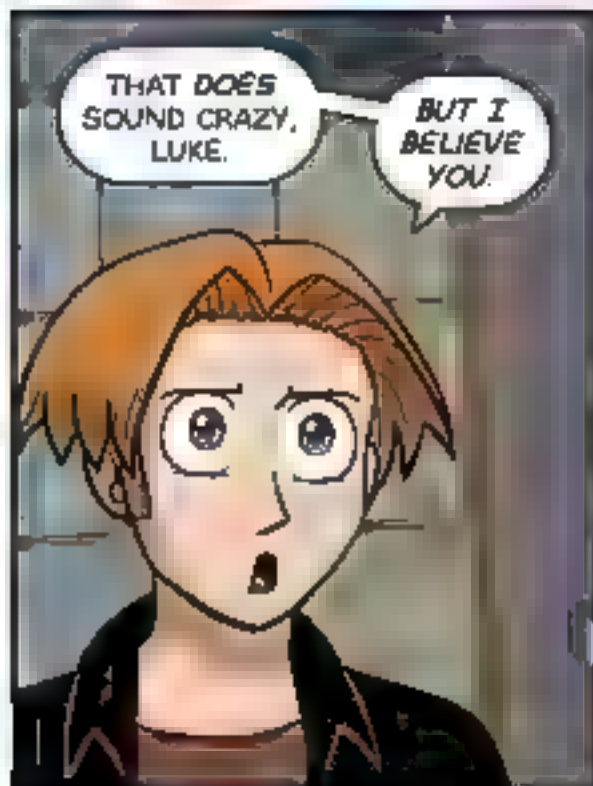
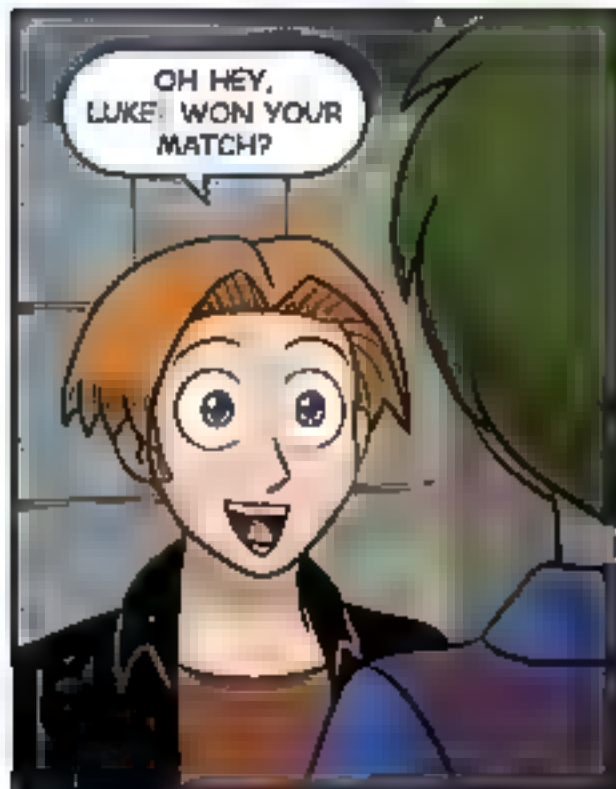


I HATE THIS TONIGHT WAS
SUPPOSED TO BE A SIMPLE BIT
OF RECON. DAMMIT AND NOW
THERE'S SUPER POWERED CLERK
GIRL, A WEIRD LIGHT



AND OF COURSE YET
ANOTHER INSTANCE OF ME
FINDING AN OBVIOUSLY
STRAIGHT GUY HOT

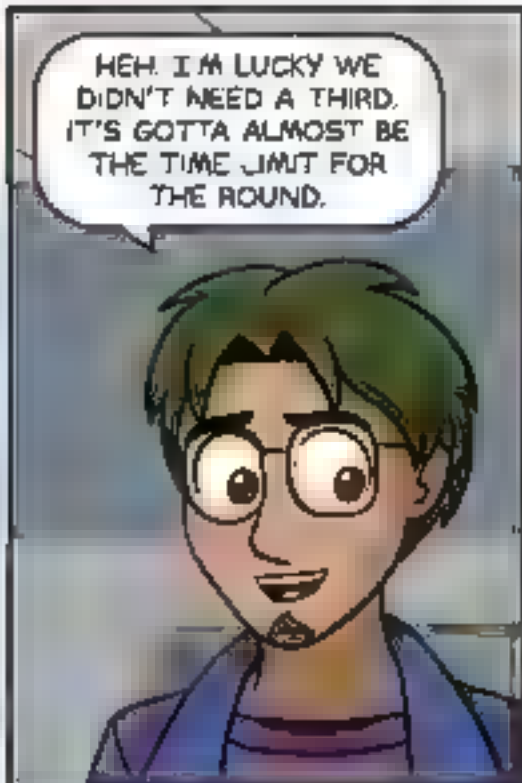
DAMMIT LUKE STOP
FANTASIZING ABOUT
LOOKING FOR HIS
MARK MANUALLY





WON BOTH GAMES, EH? CONGRATS!

NOTICE THE EARRING



HEH. I'M LUCKY WE DIDN'T NEED A THIRD. IT'S GOTTA ALMOST BE THE TIME LIMIT FOR THE ROUND.



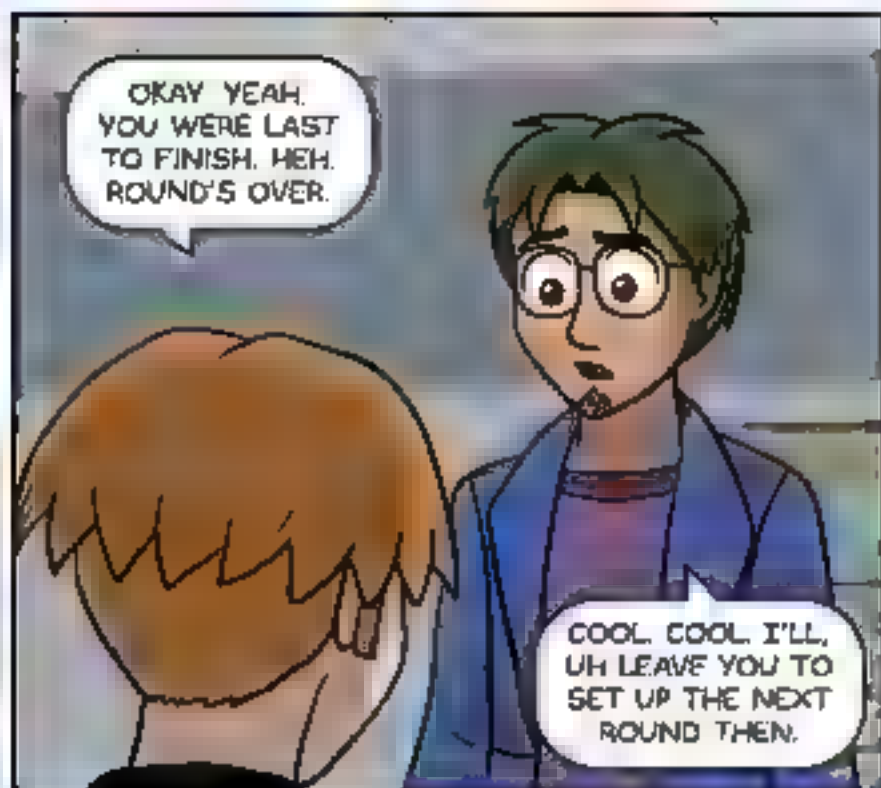
OH. UH.

LITERALLY THREE SECONDS LEFT



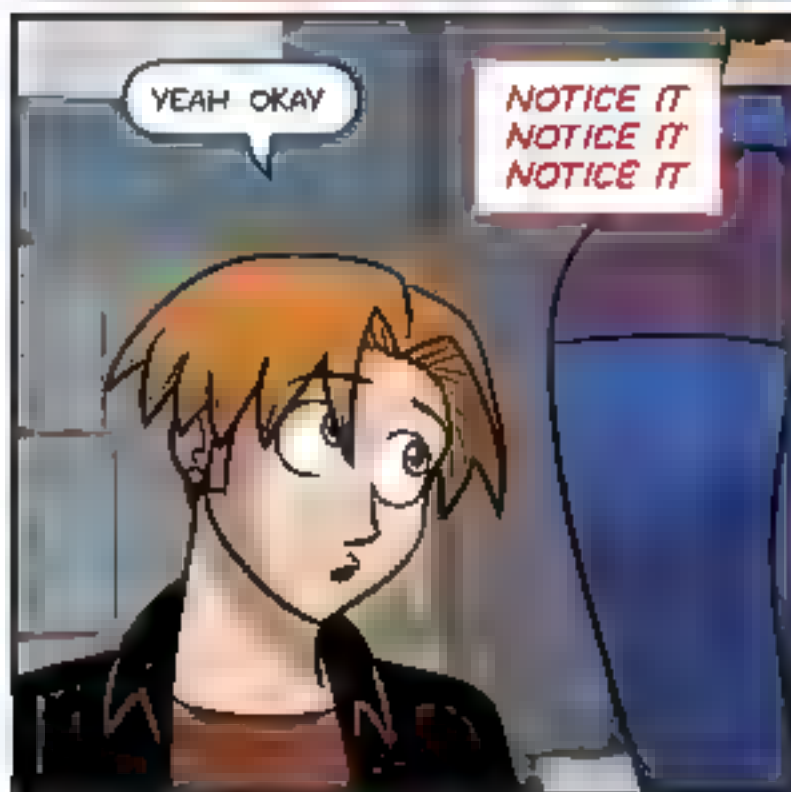
TIME! THAT'S TIME!

YOU KNOW IF ANYONE'S ACTUALLY STILL... UH.



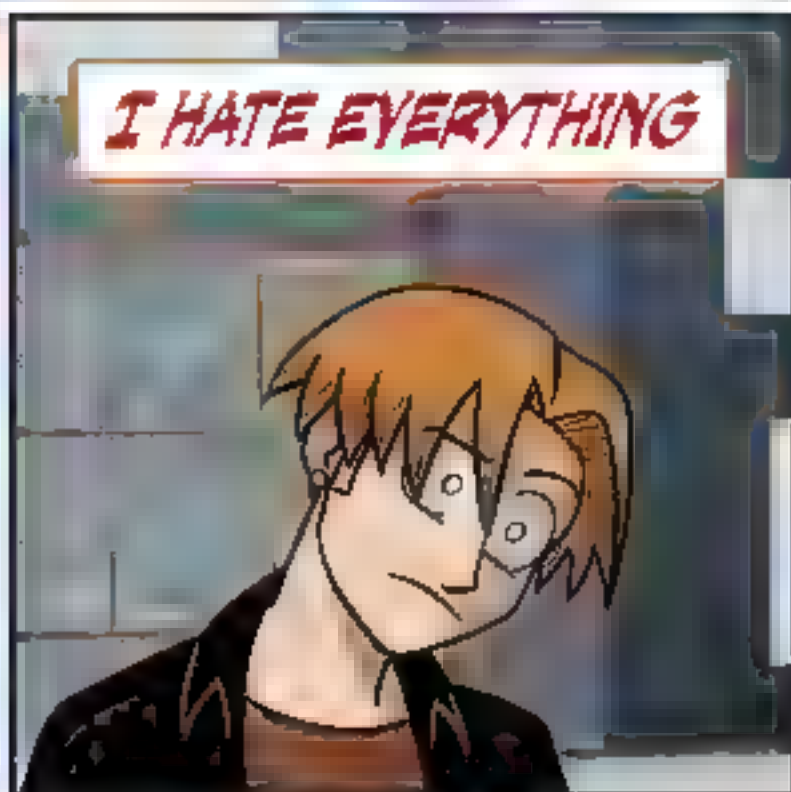
OKAY YEAH. YOU WERE LAST TO FINISH. HEH. ROUND'S OVER.

COOL. COOL. I'LL, UH LEAVE YOU TO SET UP THE NEXT ROUND THEN.

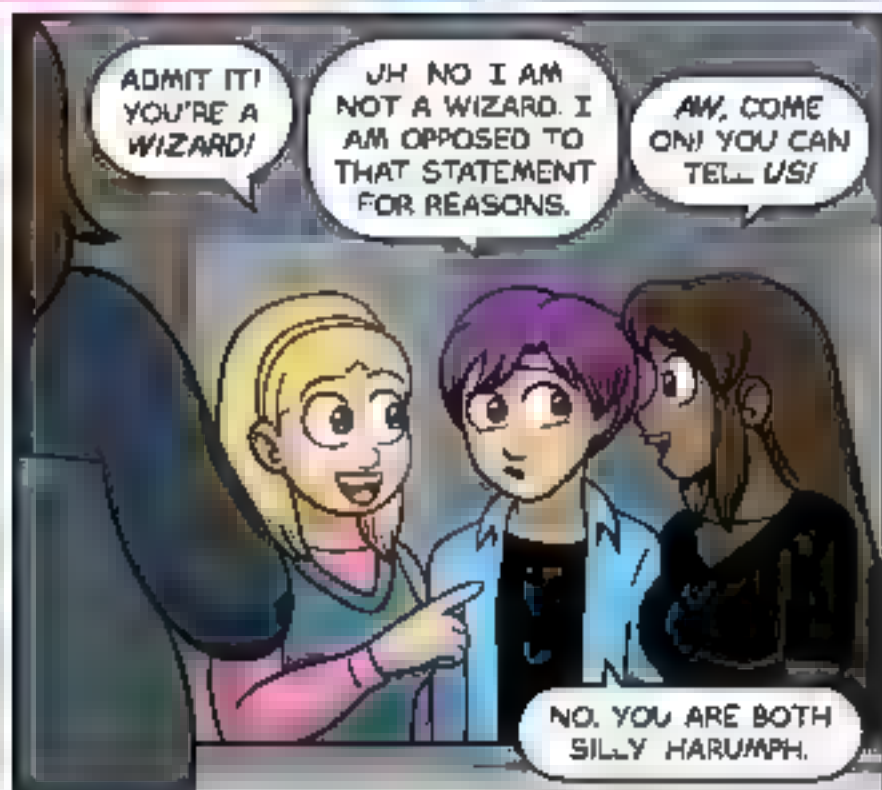
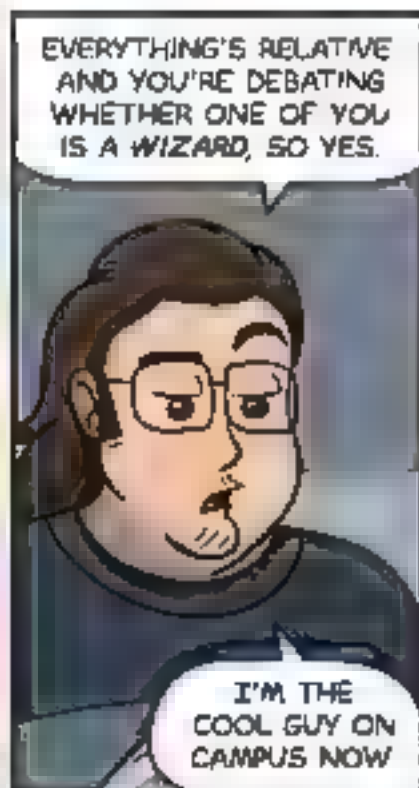
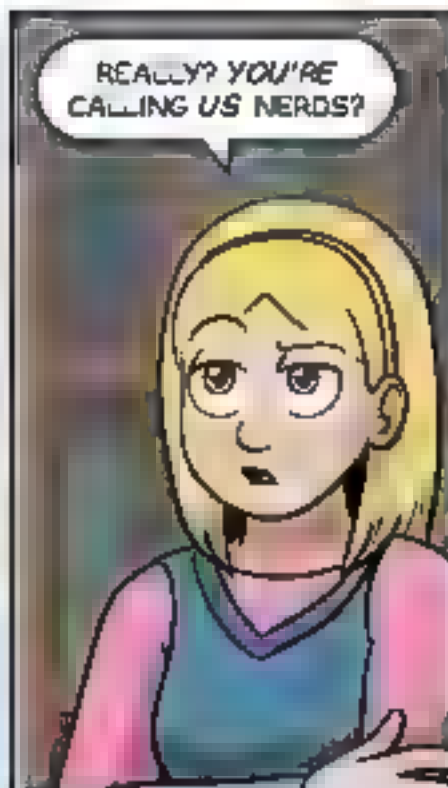


YEAH OKAY

NOTICE IT NOTICE IT NOTICE IT



I HATE EVERYTHING



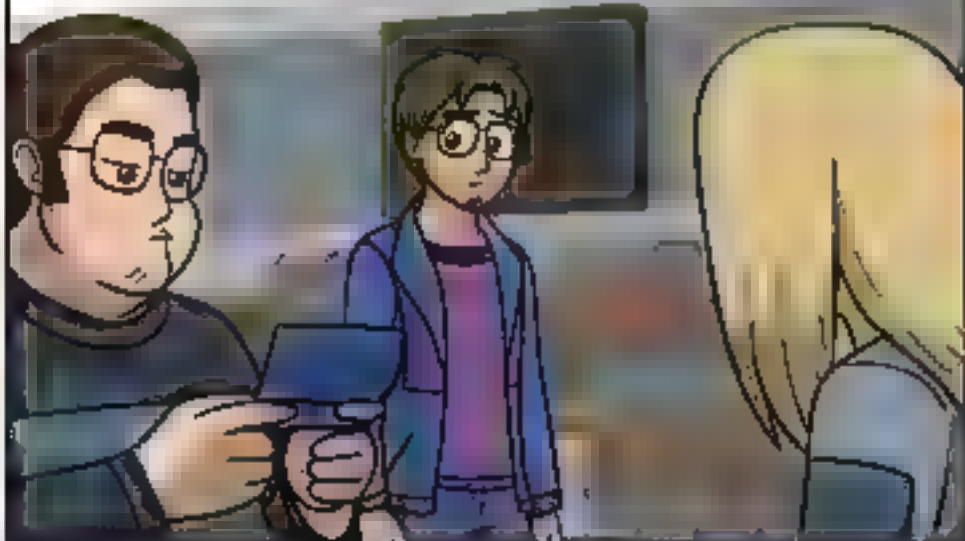
I'VE GOT
A COUPLE
MINUTES
UNTIL
THE NEXT
ROUND.

THAT'S NOT
ENOUGH TIME TO
GET TO KNOW THAT
GIRL BETTER BUT I
CAN TRY "LOOKING"
AGAIN.



ALMOST EVERYONE IS JUST
HANGING OUT AT THE TABLES
WAITING FOR THE NEXT ROUND
INCLUDING THAT BIG GUY I CAN
CHECK THEM ALL EASILY

I JUST NEED
TO BRACE FOR
ANOTHER FLASH,
JUST IN CASE.



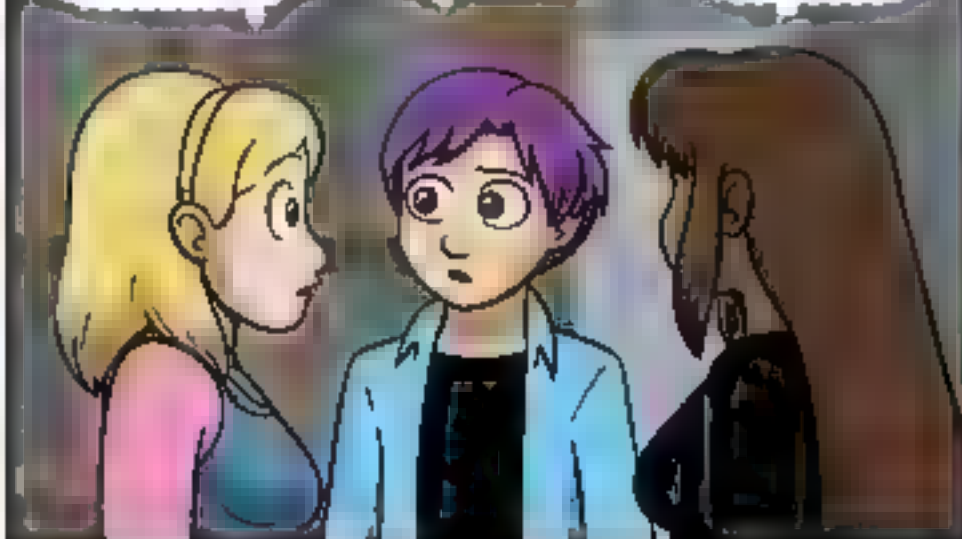
COULD YOU
JUST USE THAT
MAGIC VISION OF
YOURS TO CHECK
IF JUSTIN HAS
A MARK?

I'M NOT SURE
I DON'T THINK
SO? I HAD TO BE
TOLD ABOUT
SUSAN'S

MAY AS
WELL TRY YOU
LITERALLY JUST
HAVE TO LOOK
AT HIM, RIGHT?

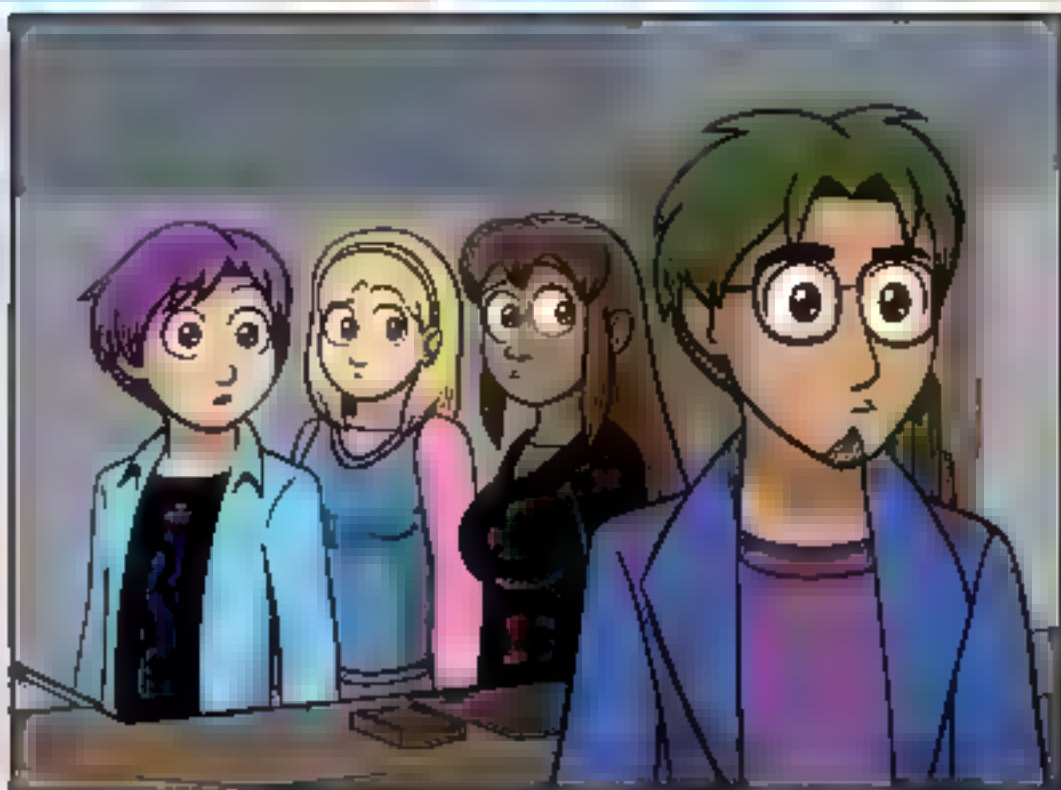
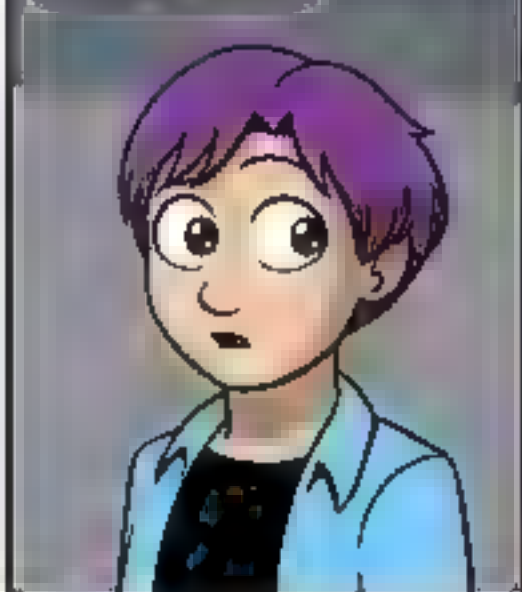
SURE I'LL
STARE AT
JUSTIN THAT
WON'T WEIRD
HIM OUT OR
ANYTHING

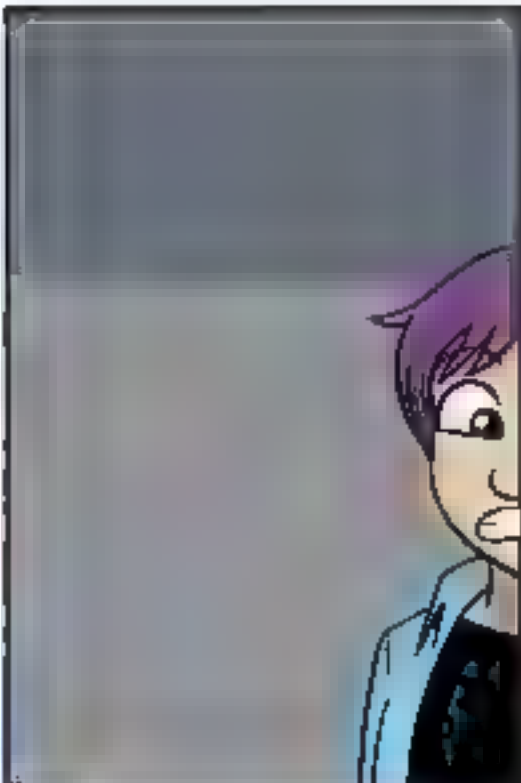
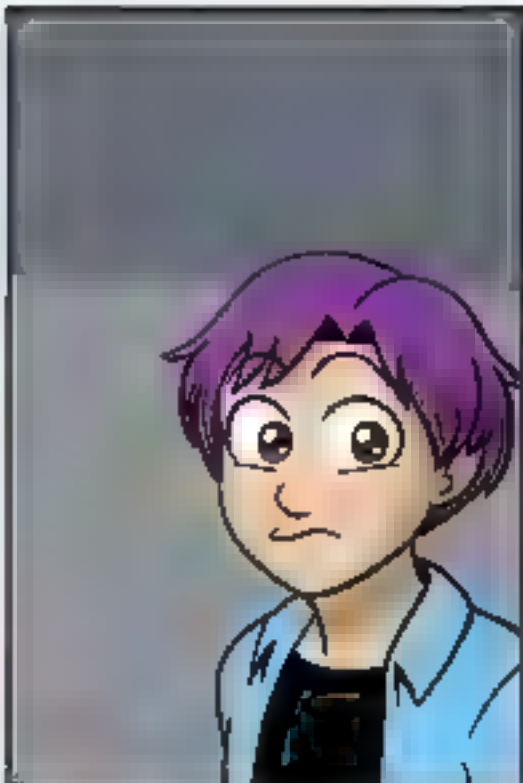
I GUARANTEE
HE'S TOO
DISTRACTED TO
BE BOTHERED
BY IT



WELL IF HE
IS MARKED. I
APPARENTLY
CAN'T TELL BY...

WAIT





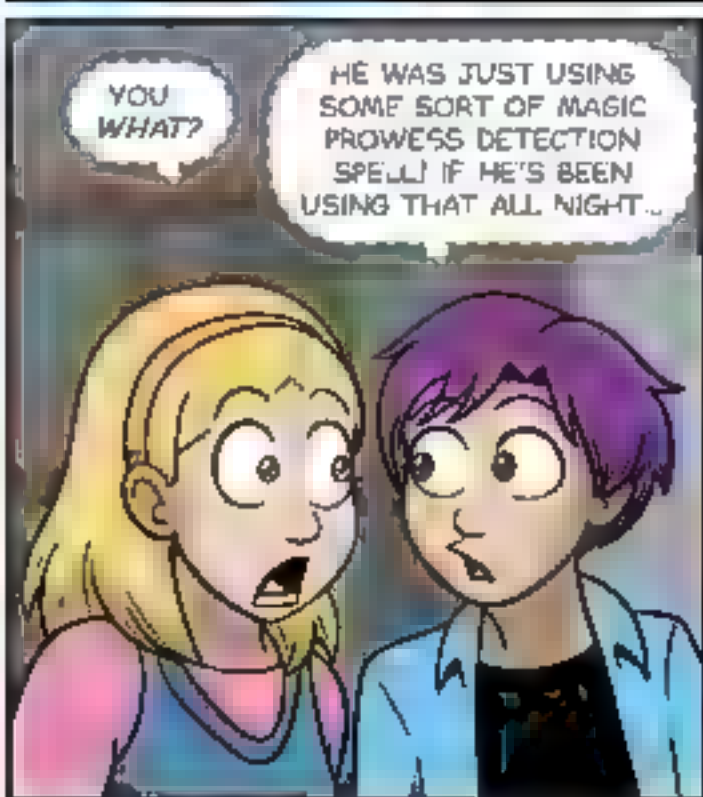
HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW THAT GREEN-HAIRED GUY?

LUKE? I ONLY JUST MET HIM TONIGHT HE SEEMS NICE THOUGH. AND JUSTIN LIKES HIM.



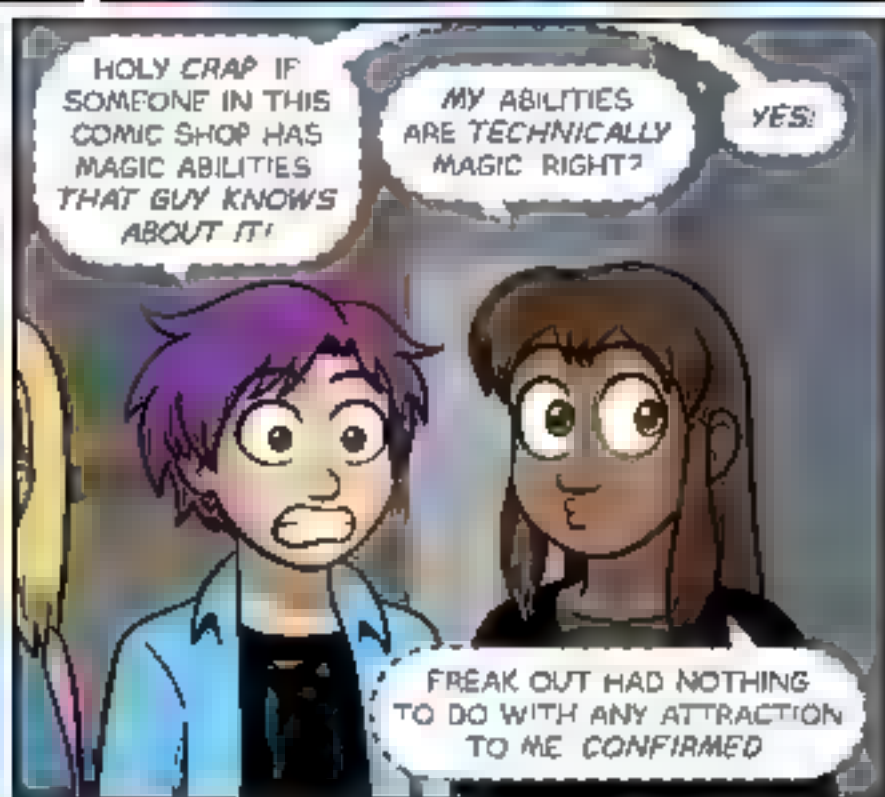
WHY ARE YOU ASKING?

BECAUSE I MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO TELL IF JUSTIN HAS A MARK BUT I AM ONE HUNDRED PERCENT CERTAIN THAT GUY CAN!



YOU WHAT?

HE WAS JUST USING SOME SORT OF MAGIC PROWESS DETECTION SPELL! IF HE'S BEEN USING THAT ALL NIGHT...



HOLY CRAP IF SOMEONE IN THIS COMIC SHOP HAS MAGIC ABILITIES THAT GUY KNOWS ABOUT IT!

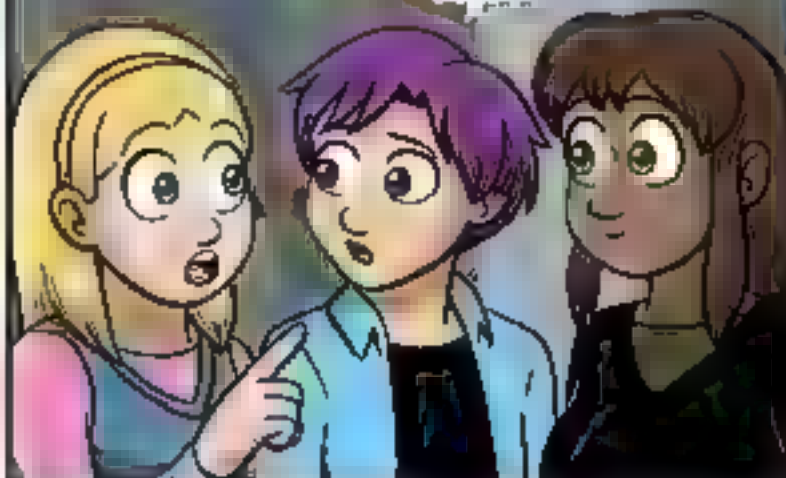
MY ABILITIES ARE TECHNICALLY MAGIC RIGHT?

YES!

FREAK OUT HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH ANY ATTRACTION TO ME CONFIRMED

OKAY BUT, THAT DOESN'T MAKE HIM BAD, RIGHT? I MEAN WE'VE ESTABLISHED THAT AN IMMORTAL IS RUNNING AROUND GIVING PEOPLE POWERS THEY DON'T KNOW ABOUT BUT WILL WIND UP USING BY ACCIDENT RIGHT?

WELL



AND ANYONE WHO DISCOVERED THEY HAD SUCH AN ABILITY WOULD NATURALLY USE IT A LOT! ESPECIALLY IF LIVING IN AN AREA WITH HIGH CONCENTRATION OF MAGIC-USING PEOPLE WHO KNOWS HOW MANY PEOPLE HAVE MARKS NOW!

YES, BUT

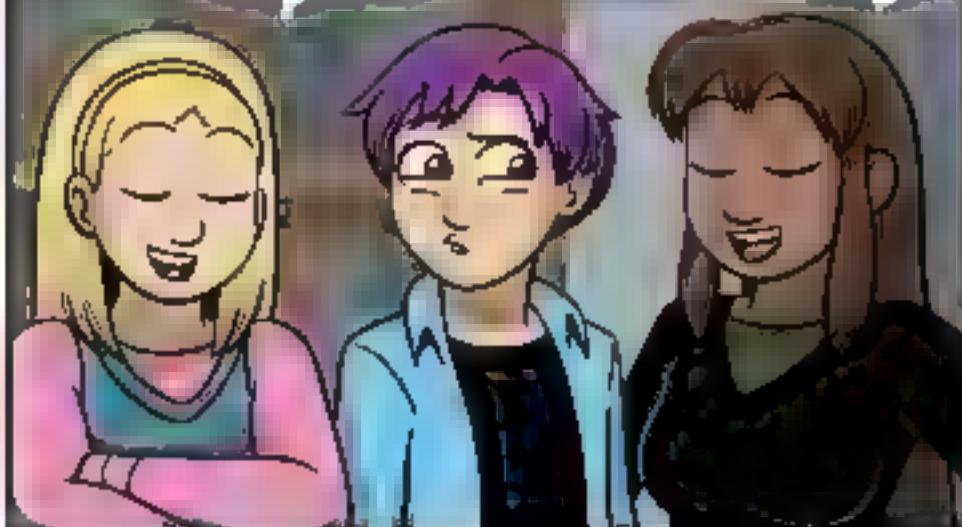


AND JUSTIN LIKES HIM AFTER SPENDING A ROUND WITH HIM

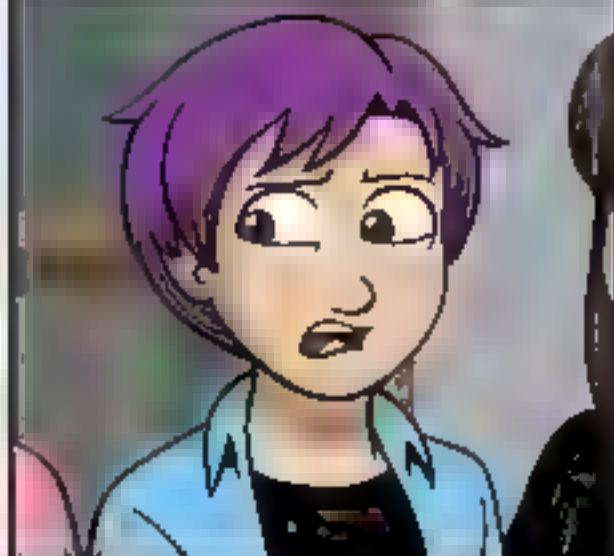
I THINK IT'S A GOOD BET THAT LUKE IS TRUSTWORTHY

YEP! TOTALLY

SOUND LOGIC



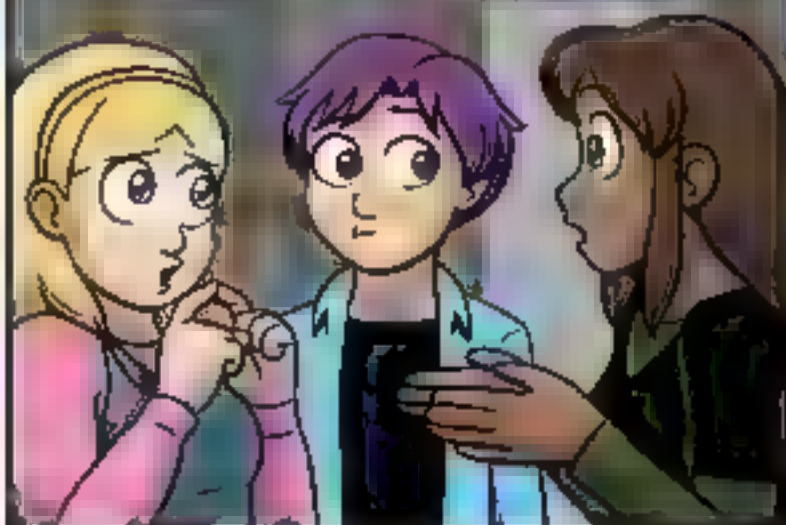
I'M CLEARLY MISSING SOME THING IS THERE SOME SPECIAL REASON YOU TWO ARE SO READY TO ASSUME HE'S A GOOD GUY?



WE THINK HE AND JUSTIN LIKE EACH OTHER

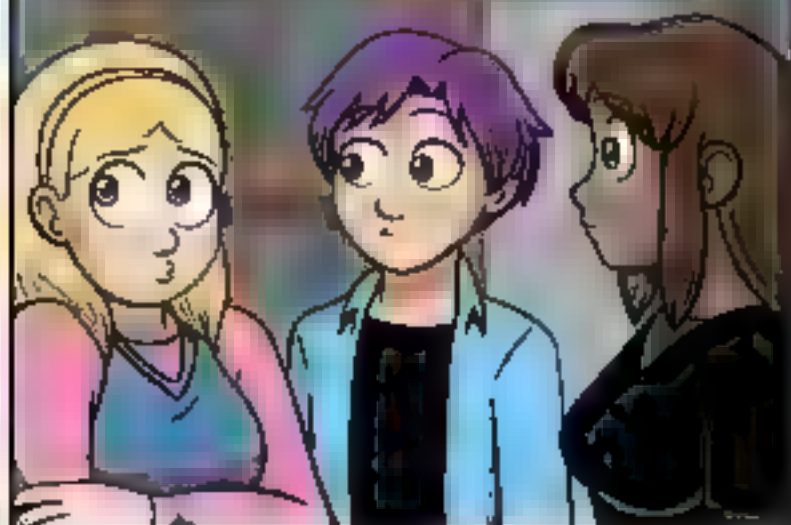
LIKE LIKE-LIKE RELATIONSHIP LIKE

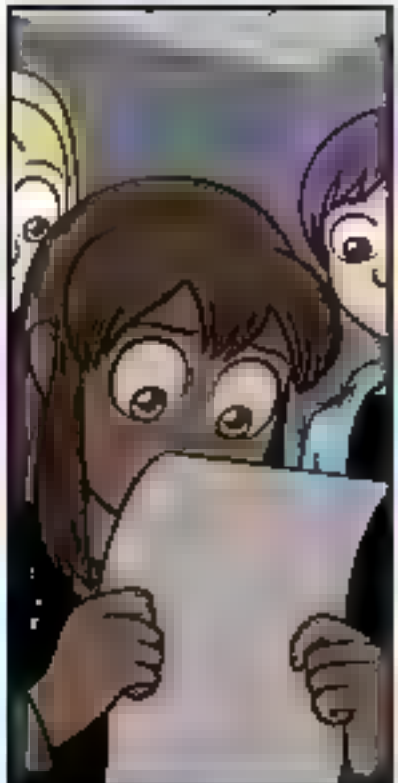
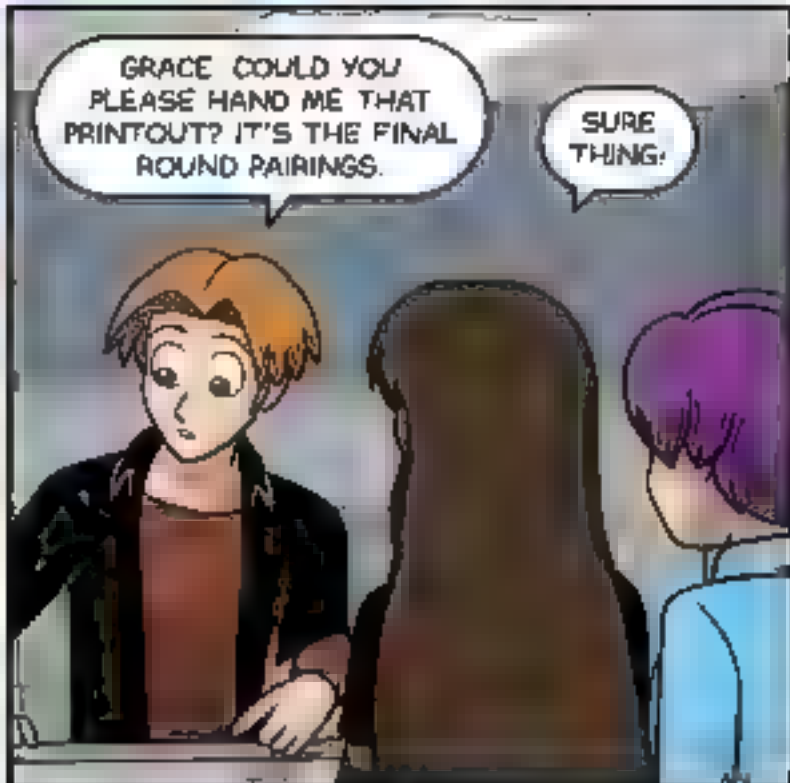
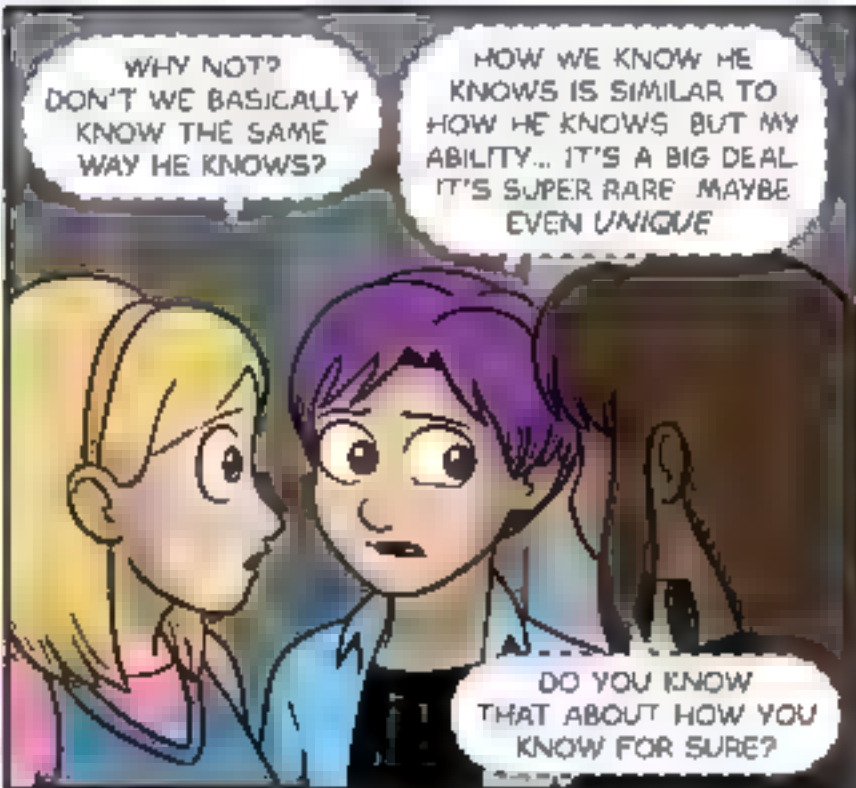
I REALLY WANT TO SEE THEM MAKE OUT

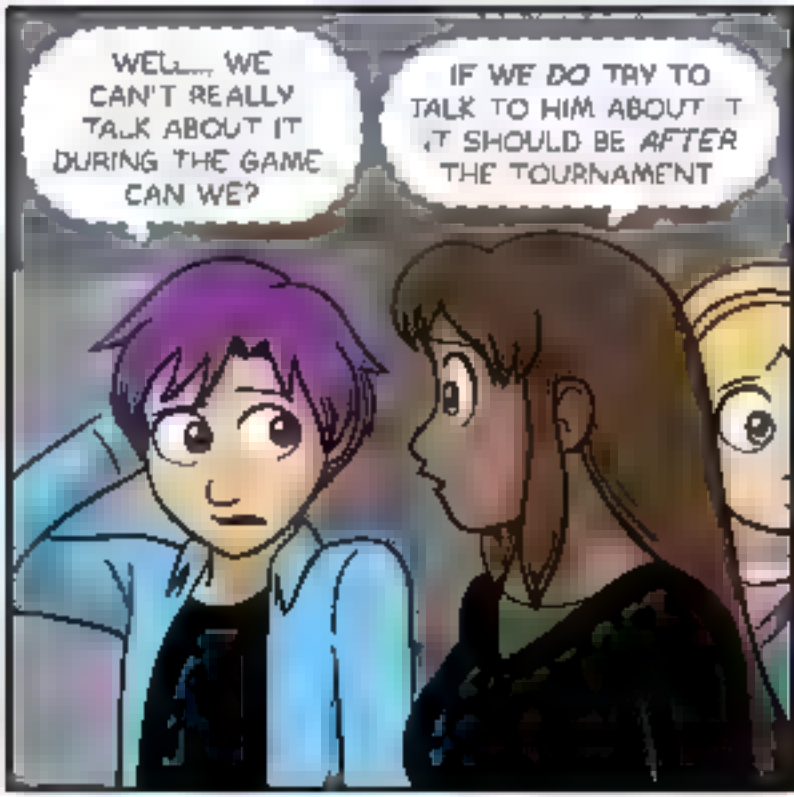


BECAUSE IT WOULD MAKE JUSTIN HAPPY AND STUFF

TEAM LUKE

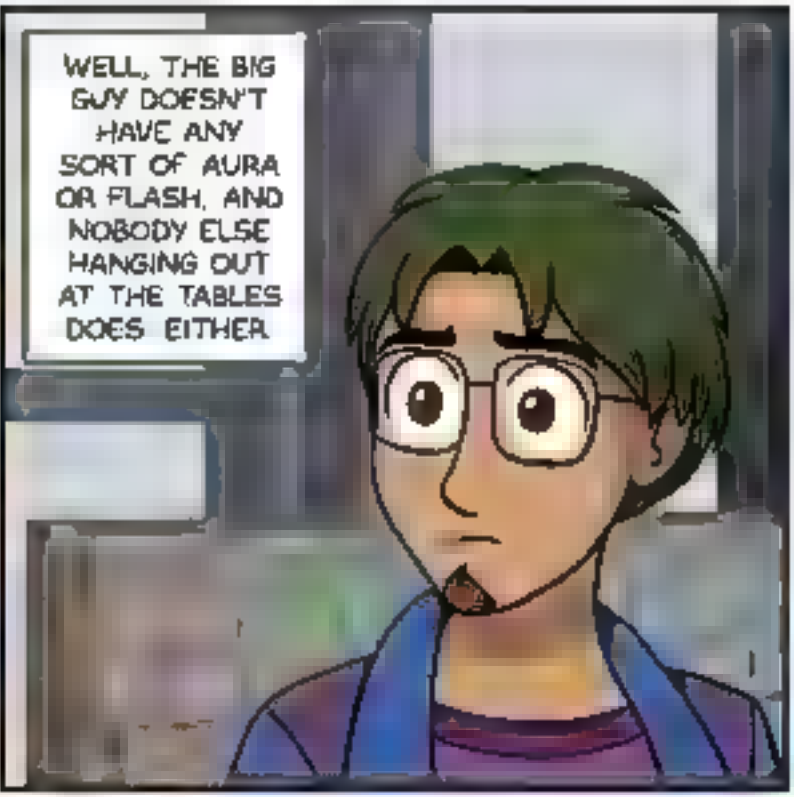




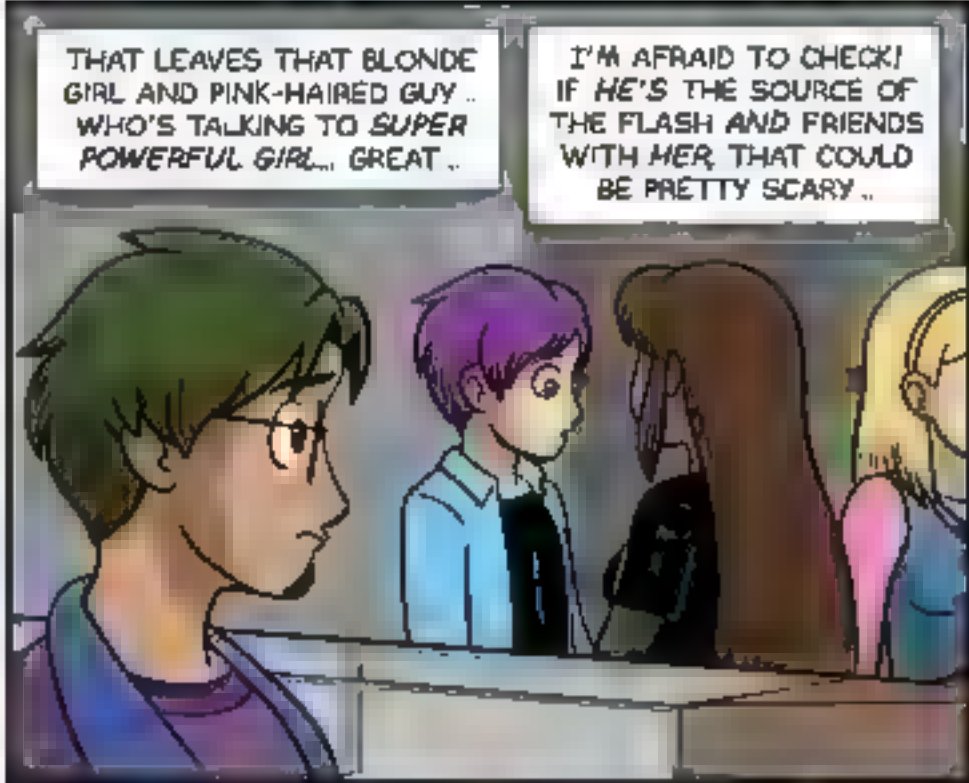


WELL... WE CAN'T REALLY TALK ABOUT IT DURING THE GAME CAN WE?

IF WE DO TRY TO TALK TO HIM ABOUT IT IT SHOULD BE AFTER THE TOURNAMENT

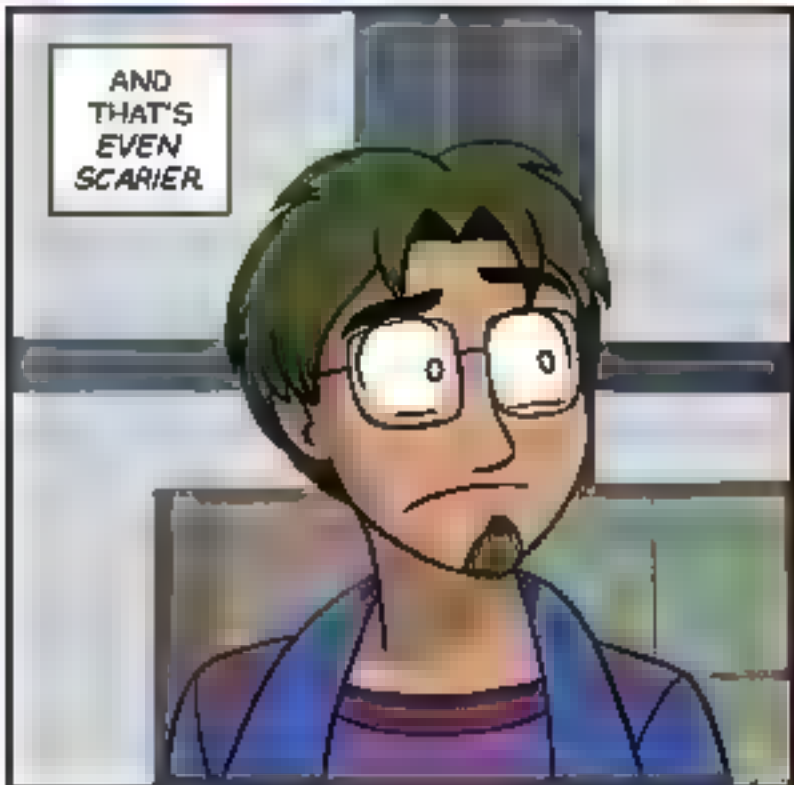
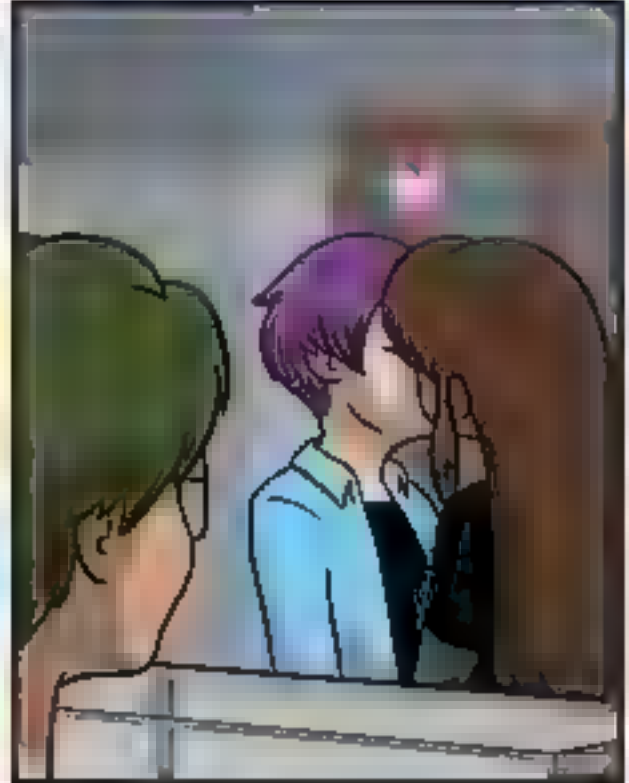


WELL, THE BIG GUY DOESN'T HAVE ANY SORT OF AURA OR FLASH, AND NOBODY ELSE HANGING OUT AT THE TABLES DOES EITHER

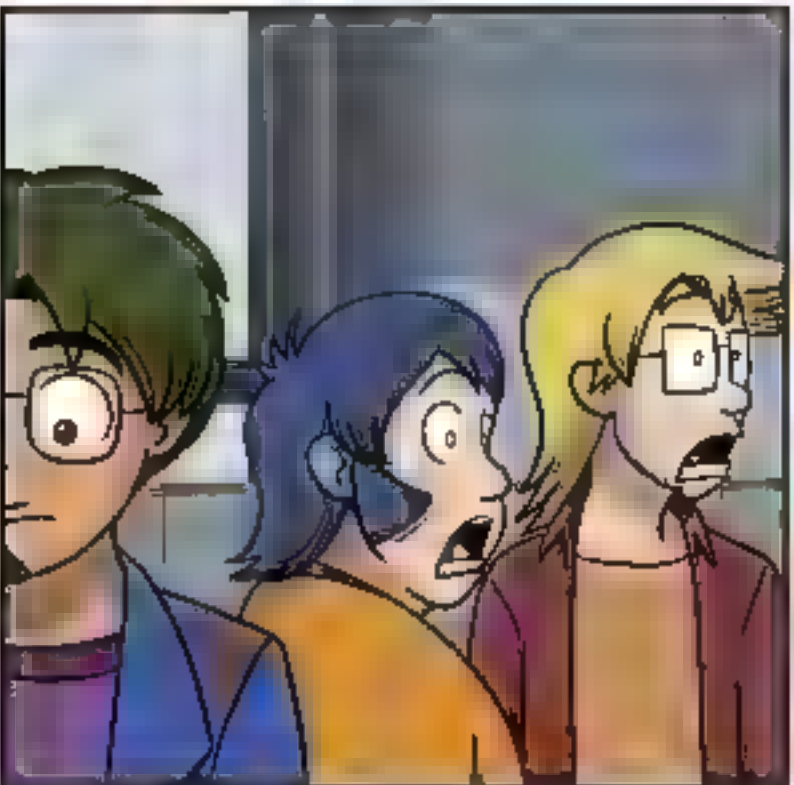


THAT LEAVES THAT BLONDE GIRL AND PINK-HAIRED GUY... WHO'S TALKING TO *SUPER POWERFUL GIRL*... GREAT..

I'M AFRAID TO CHECK! IF HE'S THE SOURCE OF THE FLASH AND FRIENDS WITH HER, THAT COULD BE PRETTY SCARY..



AND THAT'S EVEN SCARIER.



FINAL ROUND PAIRINGS ARE UP!



THEY'RE
LESBOS?!

I'M PRETTY SURE "SHE'S"
GRACE'S BOYFRIEND.



I GUESS HE
DOES EXIST

SHE'S A
GIRL I SAW
HER BOOBS.

YOU DID NOT



NOT OUT
IN THE WILD.
DUMBASS. THAT
STUPID LOOSE
OVERSHIRT
WAS OPEN.

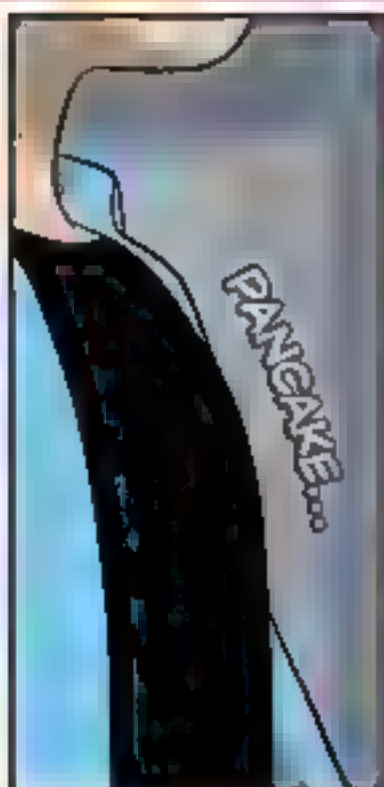
IT IS NOW, TOO
AND HE LOOKS FLAT
AS A PANCAKE



YOU NEED NEW
GLASSES. THEN
BECAUSE SHE



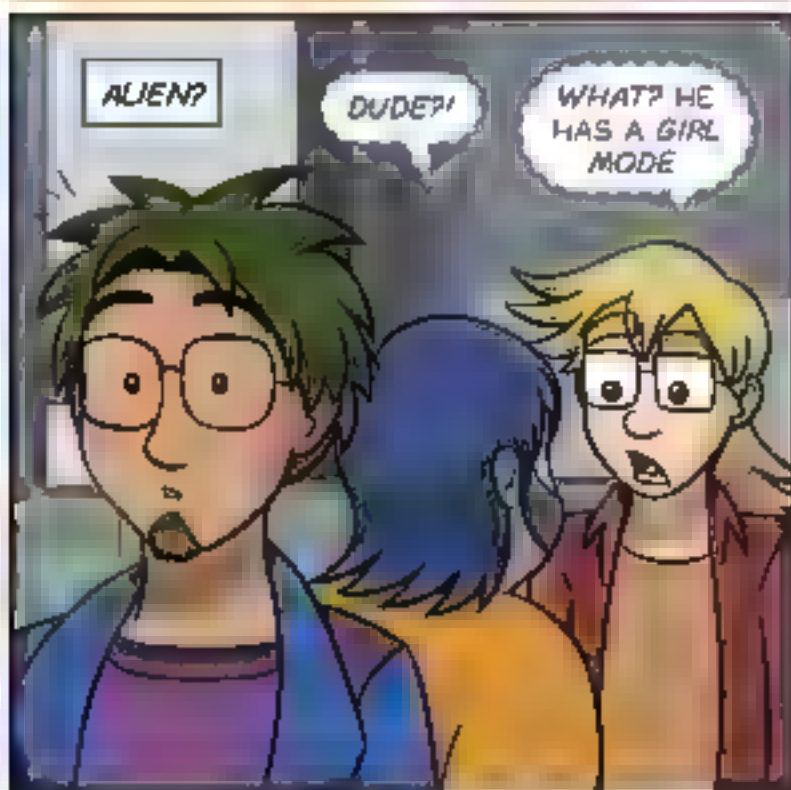
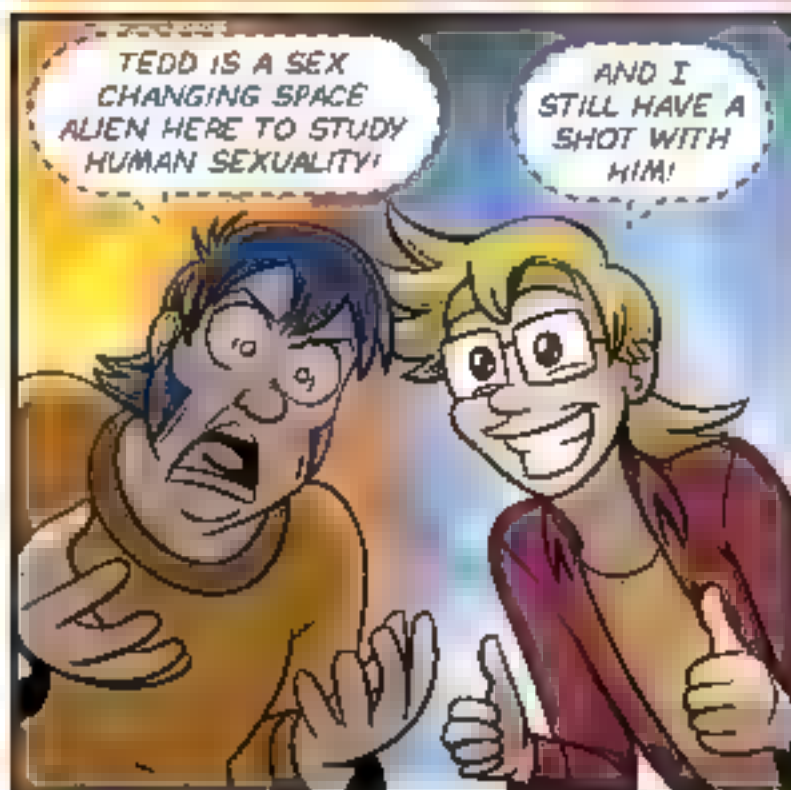
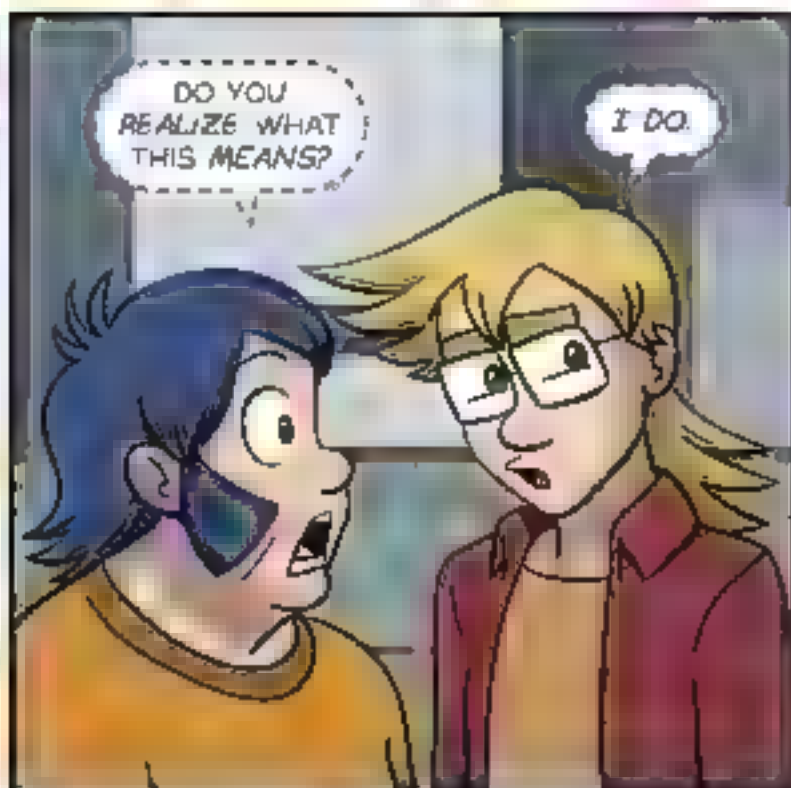
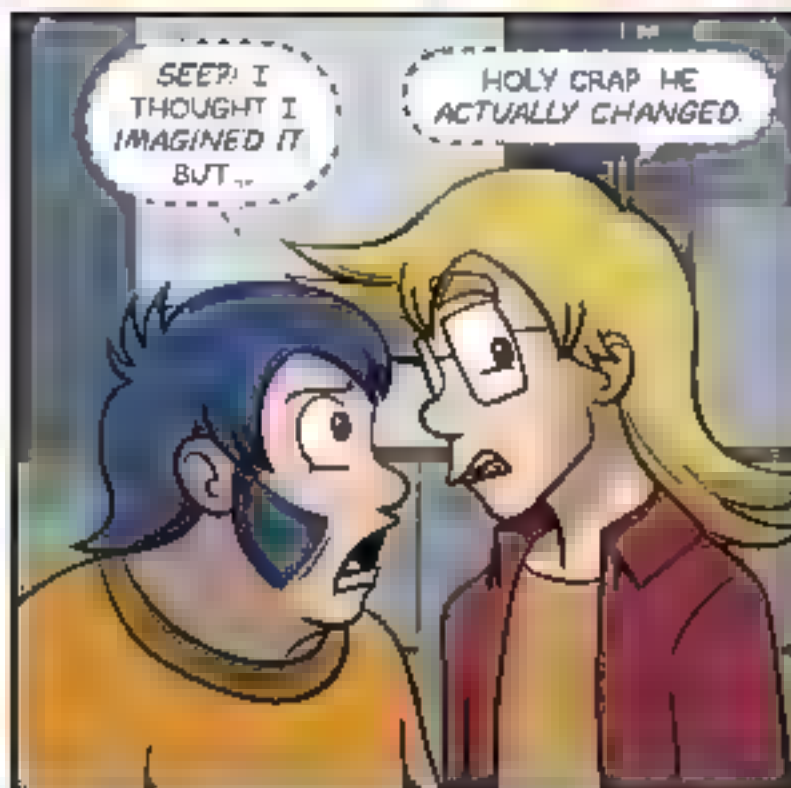
PANCAKE...



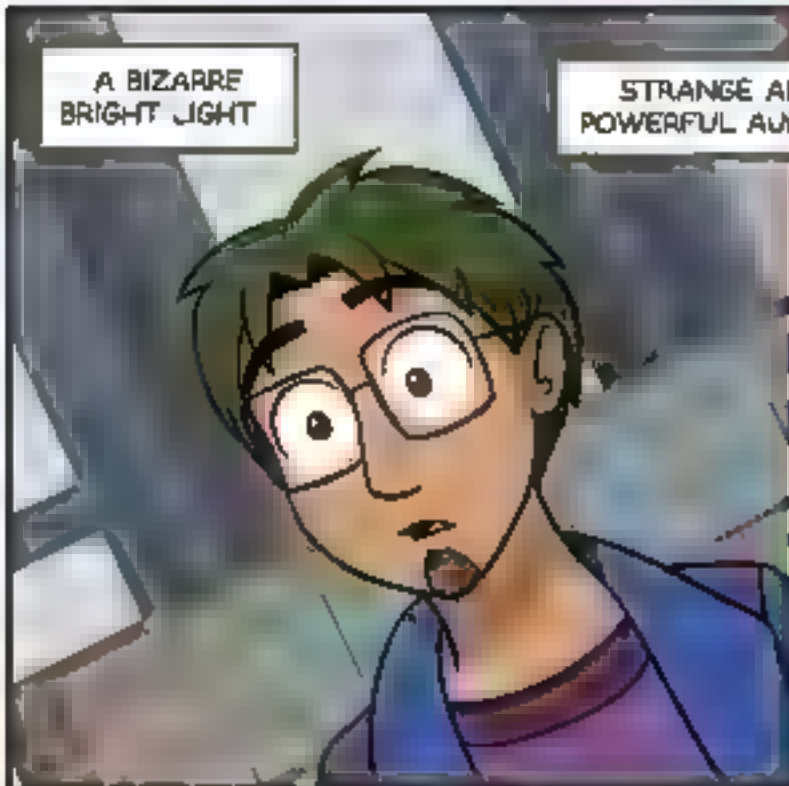
THE
@#&?!!

DOES THIS MAKE
US BI-CURIOUS OR
ARE SOME DUDES
JUST THAT GIRLY?





A BIZARRE
BRIGHT LIGHT



STRANGE AND
POWERFUL AURAS



WHAT IF THEY ARE
ALIENS? IS THAT EVEN THAT
FARFETCHED A NOTION?



IT WOULD EXPLAIN WHY
THEY'RE DIFFERENT IT
MIGHT SOMEHOW EXPLAIN
THE BRIGHT LIGHT IT..



IT MIGHT EVEN
EXPLAIN WHERE THE
MARKS CAME FROM.

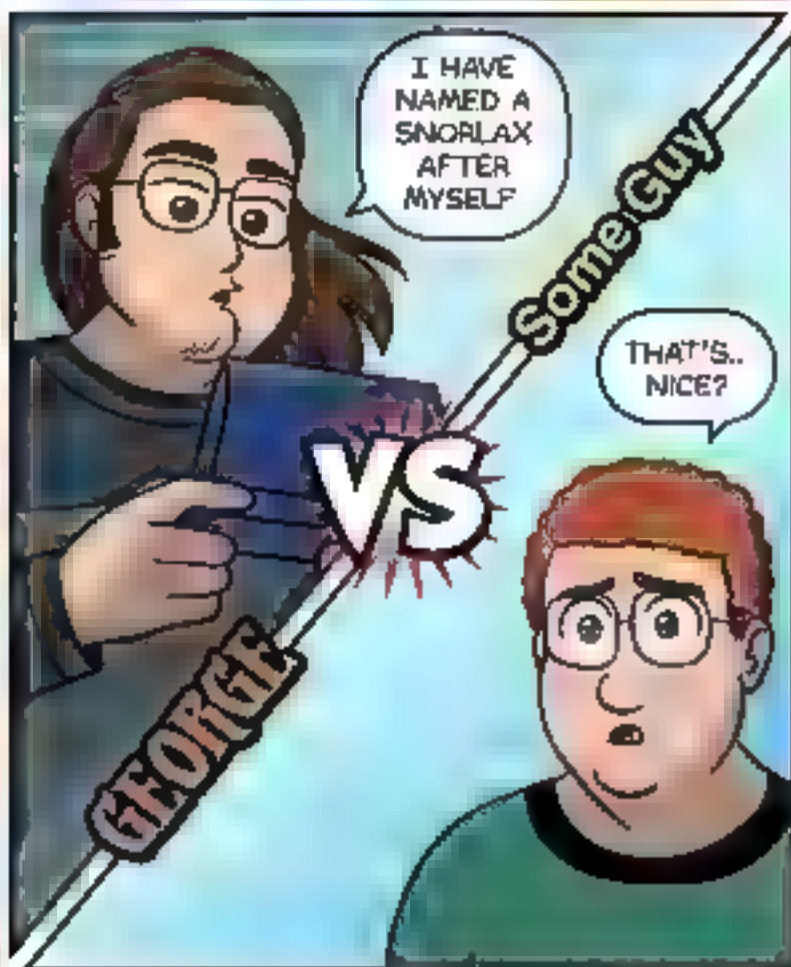
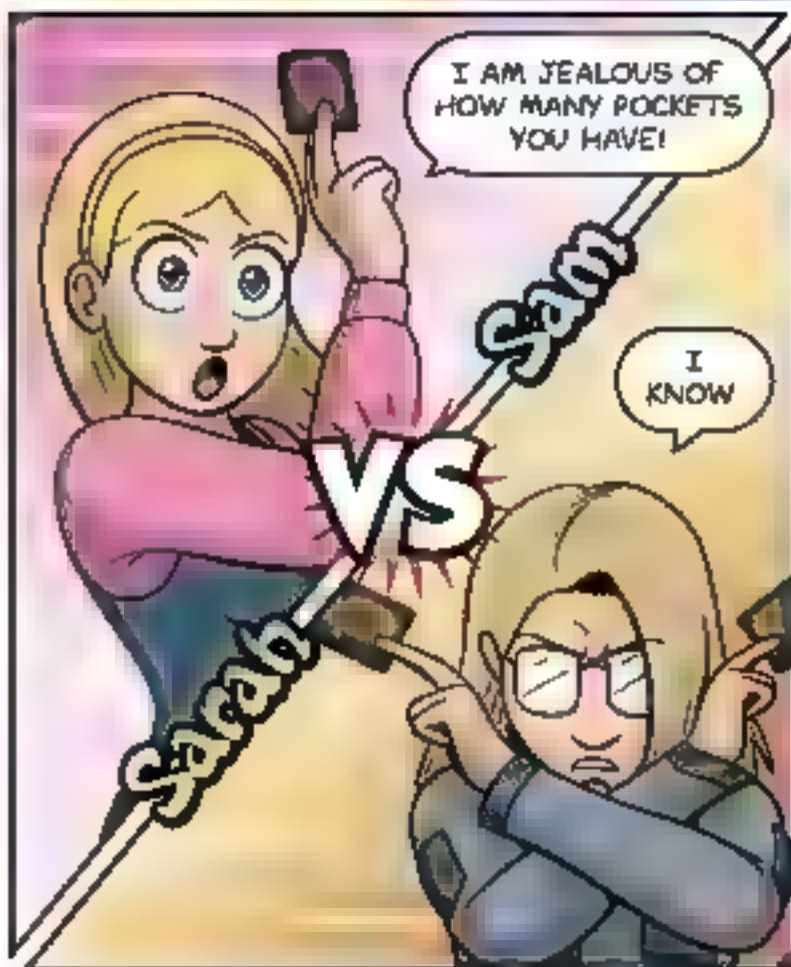
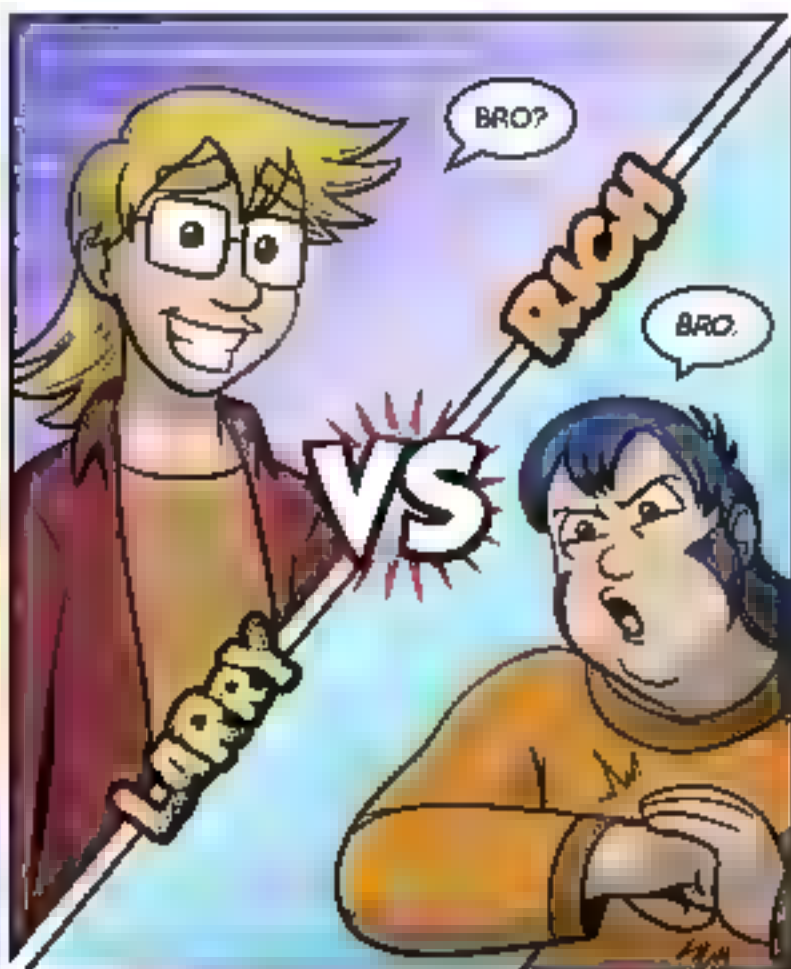
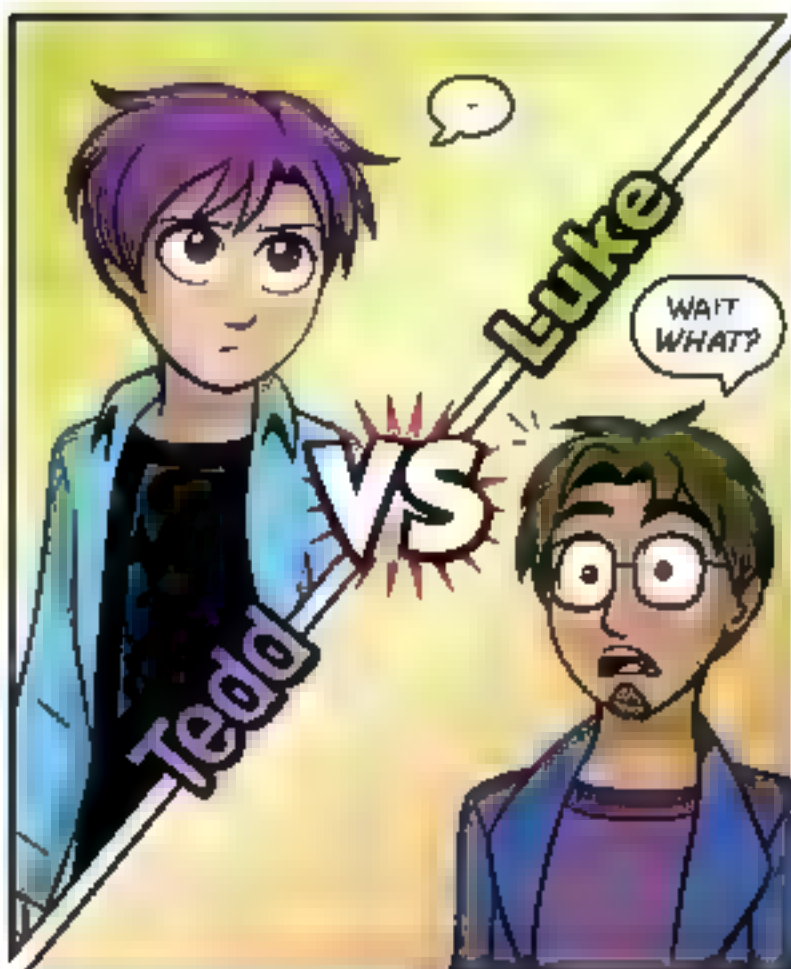


EEP



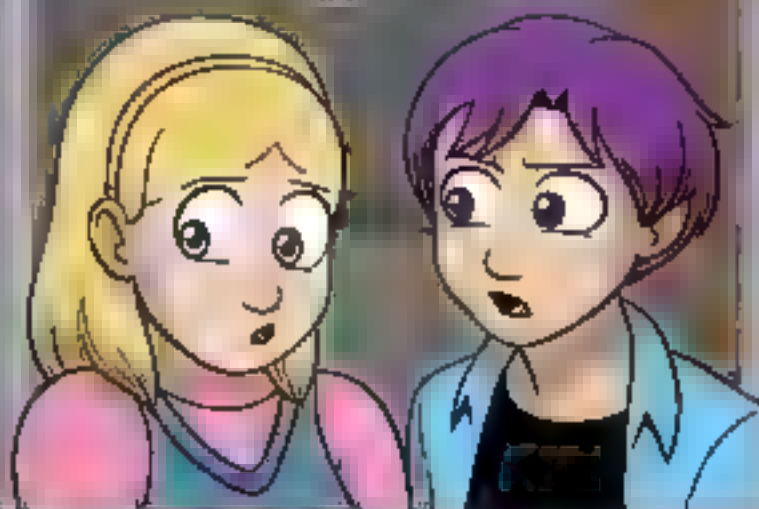
FINAL BATTLE

("Battle" = best two out of three card games in some tournament)

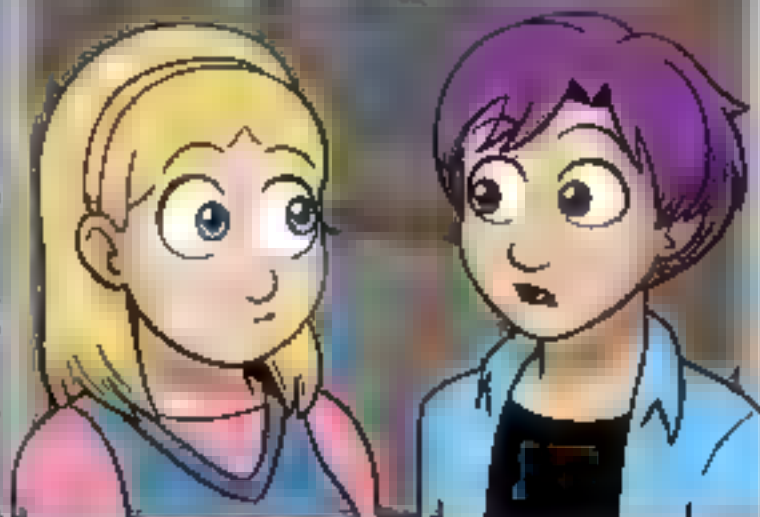


YOUR ARGUMENT IS SERIOUSLY "THAT GUY IS HOT AND I WANT TO SEE HIM MAKE OUT WITH MY HOT FRIEND"?

WELL NOT EXACTLY.



I UNDERSTAND COMPLETELY BUT WE NEED TO THINK BIG PICTURE HERE AND THAT PICTURE IS.. WELL I'M NOT SURE WHAT THAT PICTURE IS BUT HE KNOWS MORE THAN I'M COMFORTABLE WITH.



BUT WAIT SO YOU KNOW FOR SURE THAT HE KNOWS YOU GRACE AND JUSTIN HAVE MAGIC?

IF HE'S BEEN "LOOK NG" AROUND ALL NIGHT THEN YEAH. NOT ONLY THAT BUT.. YOU SAID SOMETHING ABOUT A "FREAK OUT"?

YEAH HE RAN OFF AFTER HE FIRST SAW ME BUT HE CAME BACK

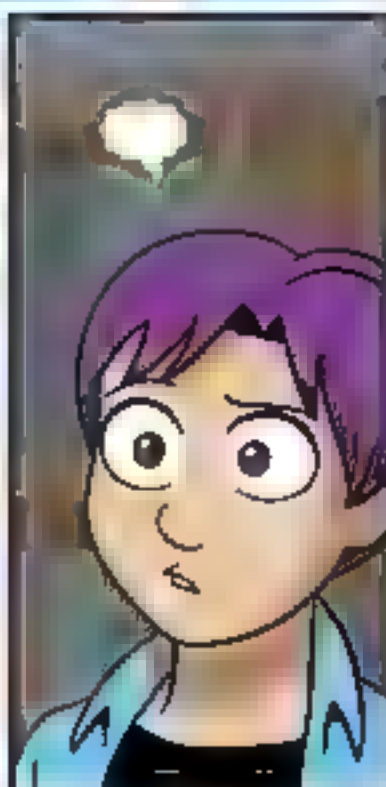
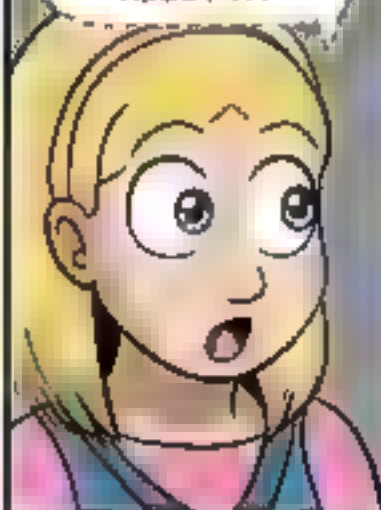


SEE NOT ONLY IS THAT SUSPICIOUS, BUT IT SUGGESTS HE COULD TELL THERE WAS SOMETHING SPECIAL ABOUT GRACE



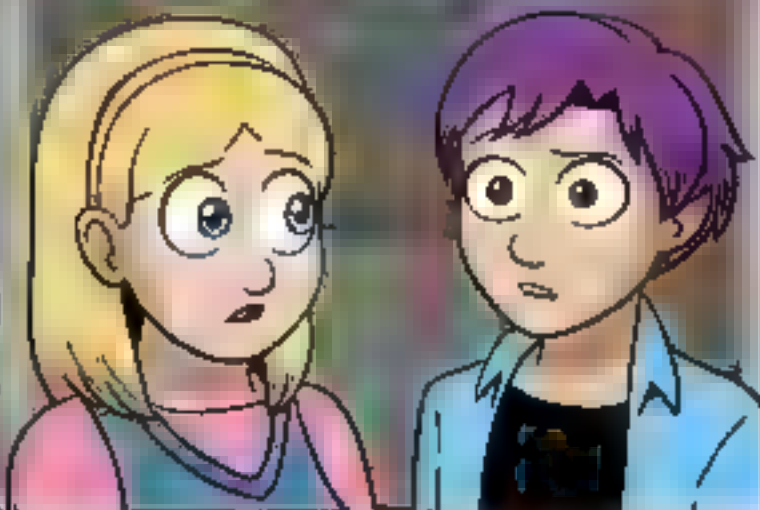
I AM PRETTY SPECIAL

RIGHT RIGHT AND THAT COULD BE BAD BUT.. HE ALREADY KNOWS, RIGHT? MAYBE WE SHOULD JUST TALK TO HIM ABOUT IT?



TEDD?

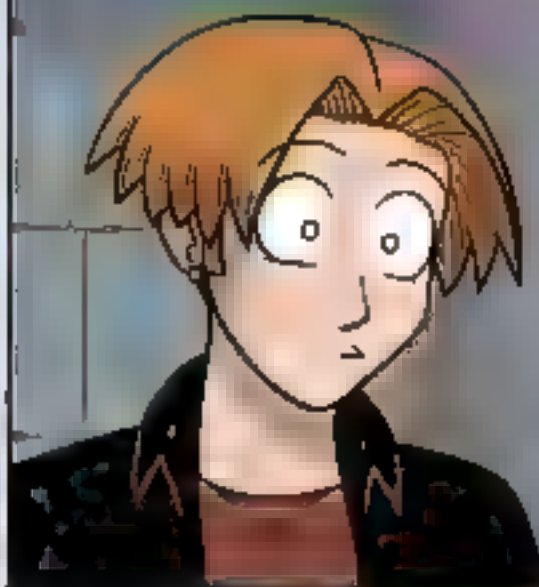
SORRY I'M SO USED TO KEEPING THIS STUFF A SECRET THAT YOUR SUGGESTION MADE MY BRAIN FREEZE



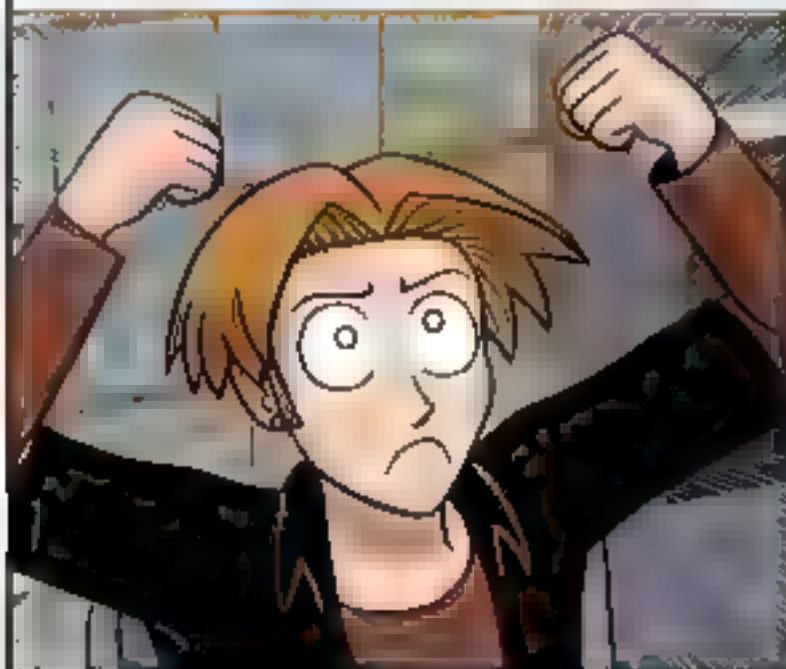
HOW COULD HE NOT
NOTICE THE EARRING?!
IT'S SO BLUE AND
SWEET AND.



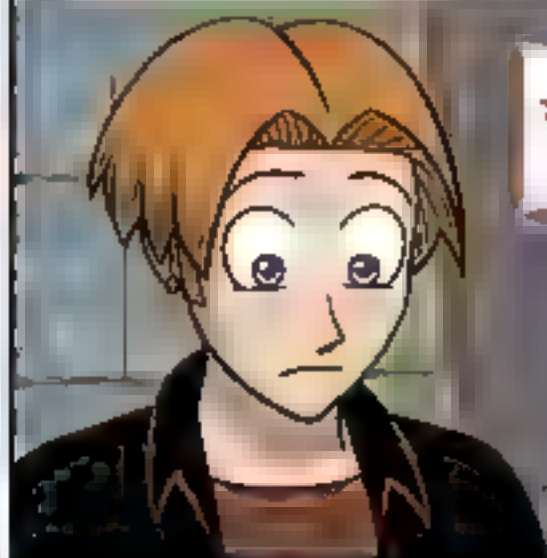
BLAH BLAH CHANGE
BLINDNESS BLAH



PSYCHOLOGYYY~!

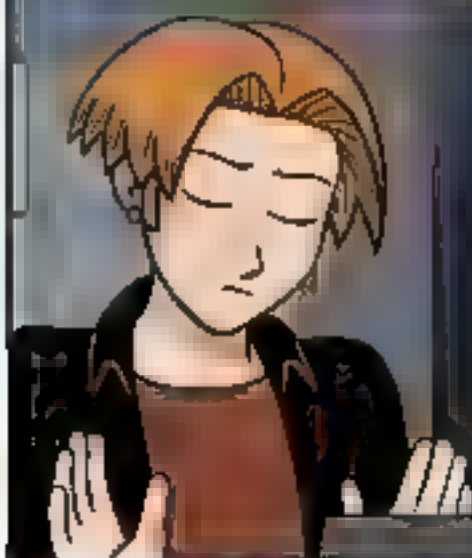


HE'S NOT GONNA MAKE A MOVE! IT
COULD BE BECAUSE HE DOESN'T WANT
TO, OR BECAUSE HE DOESN'T REALIZE
I'M GAY OR MAYBE HE'S STRAIGHT...



WHATEVER
THE REASON,
IT'S MY
MOVE!

OKAY CALM DOWN.
THERE'S ONE ROUND LEFT
AND YOU'VE STILL GOT A
TOURNAMENT TO RUN.



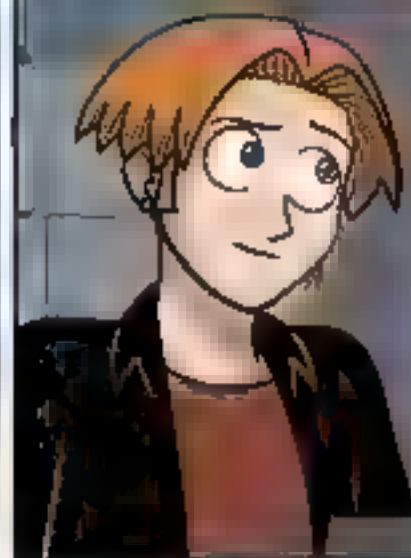
A TOURNAMENT
YOU'RE JUDGING.

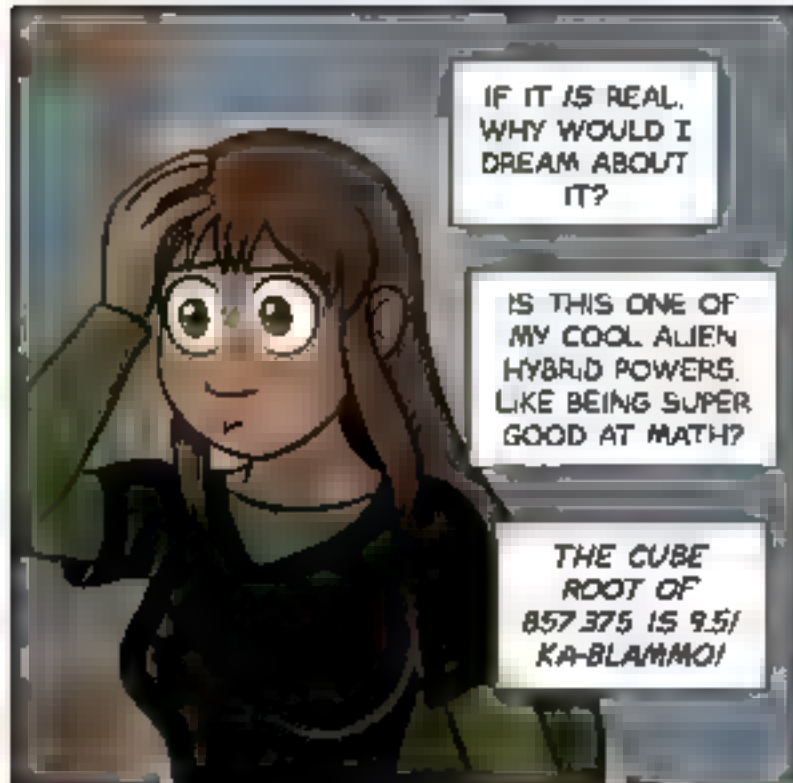


THAT
DUKE IS
PLAYING
IN.

MAKING IT SUPER
INAPPROPRIATE TO ASK HIM
OUT BEFORE IT'S OVER.

I'VE HEARD WORSE
EXCUSES TO PUT
OFF DOING SOME-
THING SCARY!

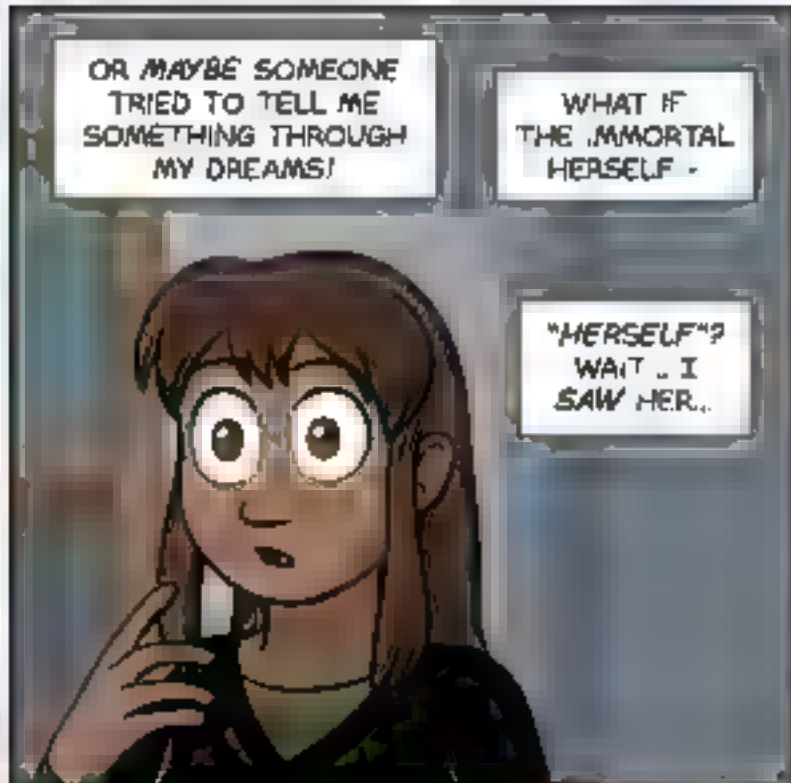




IF IT IS REAL,
WHY WOULD I
DREAM ABOUT
IT?

IS THIS ONE OF
MY COOL ALIEN
HYBRID POWERS,
LIKE BEING SUPER
GOOD AT MATH?

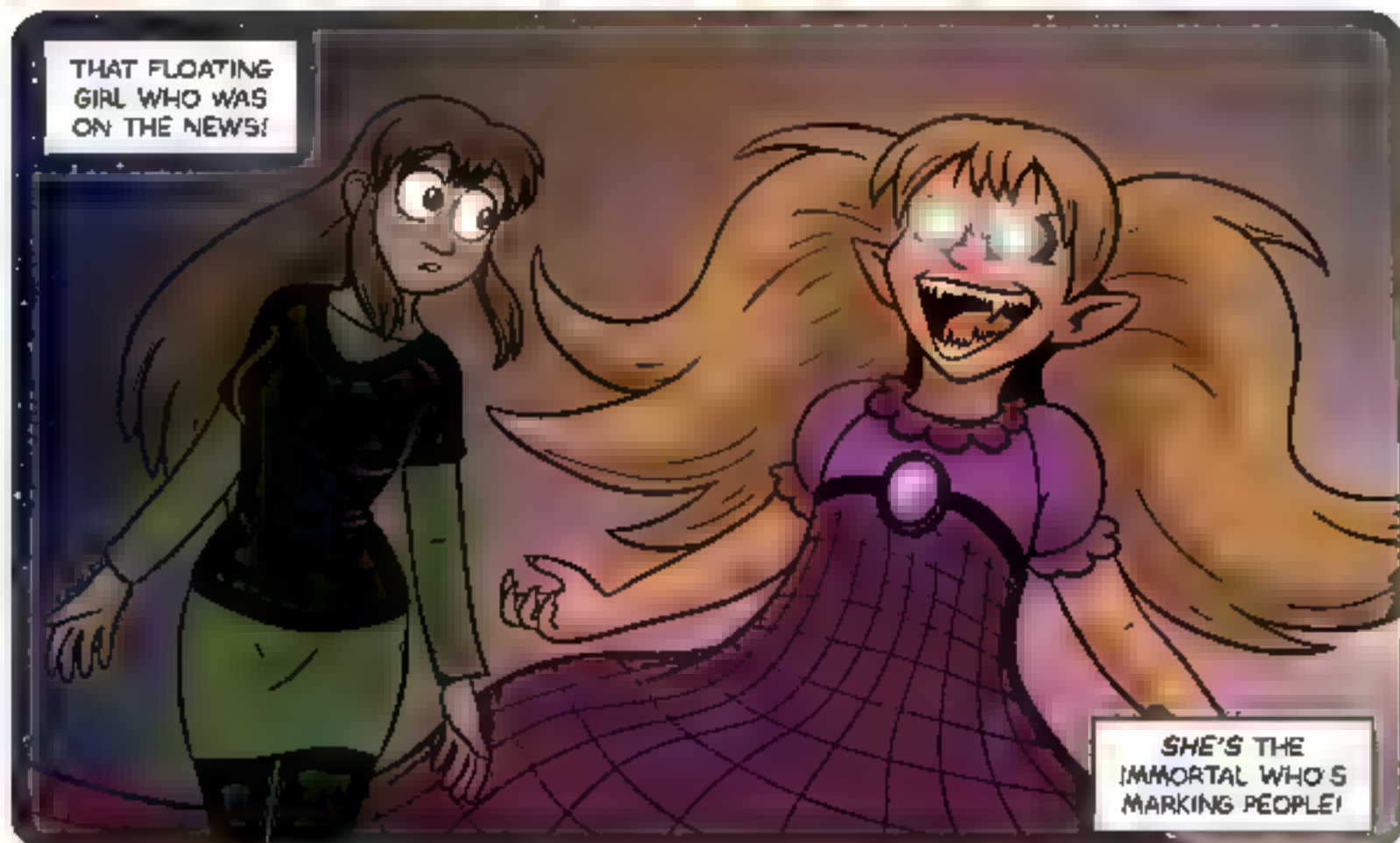
THE CUBE
ROOT OF
857 375 IS 9.5!
KA-BLAMMO!



OR MAYBE SOMEONE
TRIED TO TELL ME
SOMETHING THROUGH
MY DREAMS!

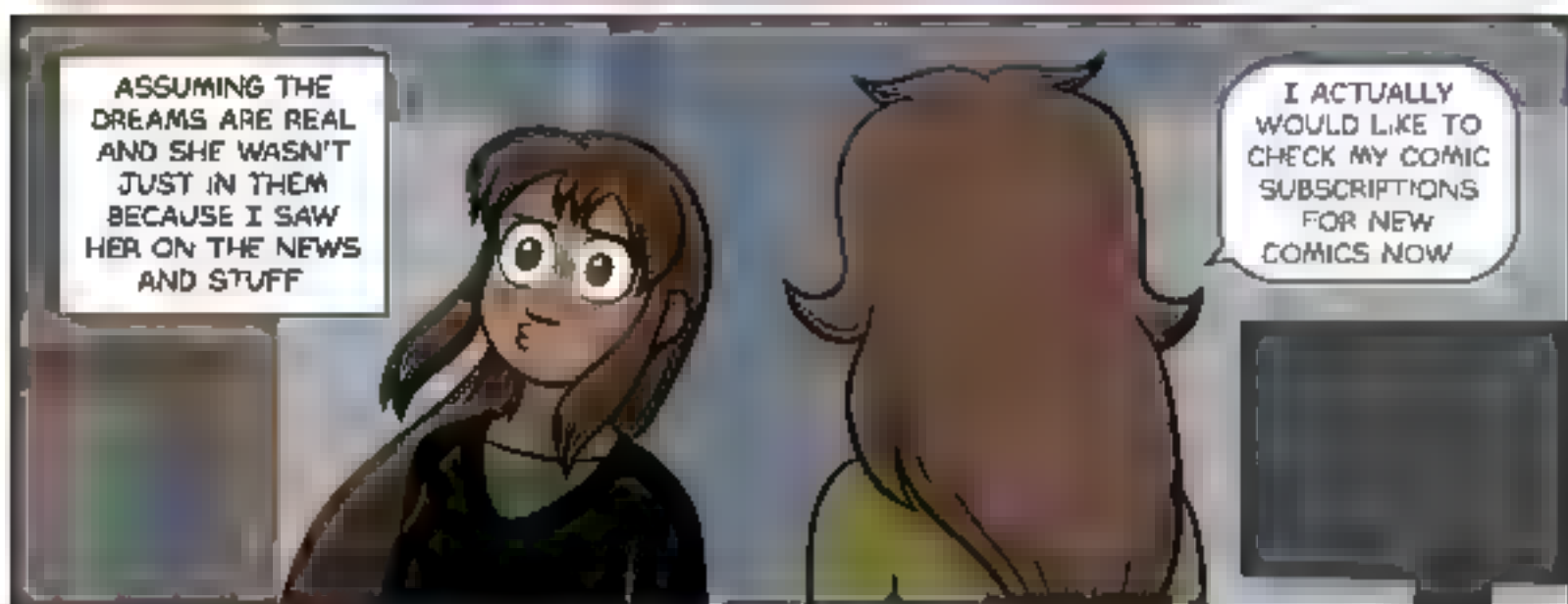
WHAT IF
THE IMMORTAL
HERSELF -

"HERSELF"?
WAIT... I
SAW HER..




THAT FLOATING
GIRL WHO WAS
ON THE NEWS!

SHE'S THE
IMMORTAL WHO'S
MARKING PEOPLE!




ASSUMING THE
DREAMS ARE REAL
AND SHE WASN'T
JUST IN THEM
BECAUSE I SAW
HER ON THE NEWS
AND STUFF


I ACTUALLY
WOULD LIKE TO
CHECK MY COMIC
SUBSCRIPTIONS
FOR NEW
COMICS NOW



THERE.
YOUR TURN.




DUDE WE'VE TALKED
ABOUT THIS. YOU CAN'T
THINK ABOUT ALIENS
AND PLAY CARD GAMES
AT THE SAME TIME YOU
GET TOO GRUMPY.



I'M NOT
GRUMPY I'M
WEIRDED OUT

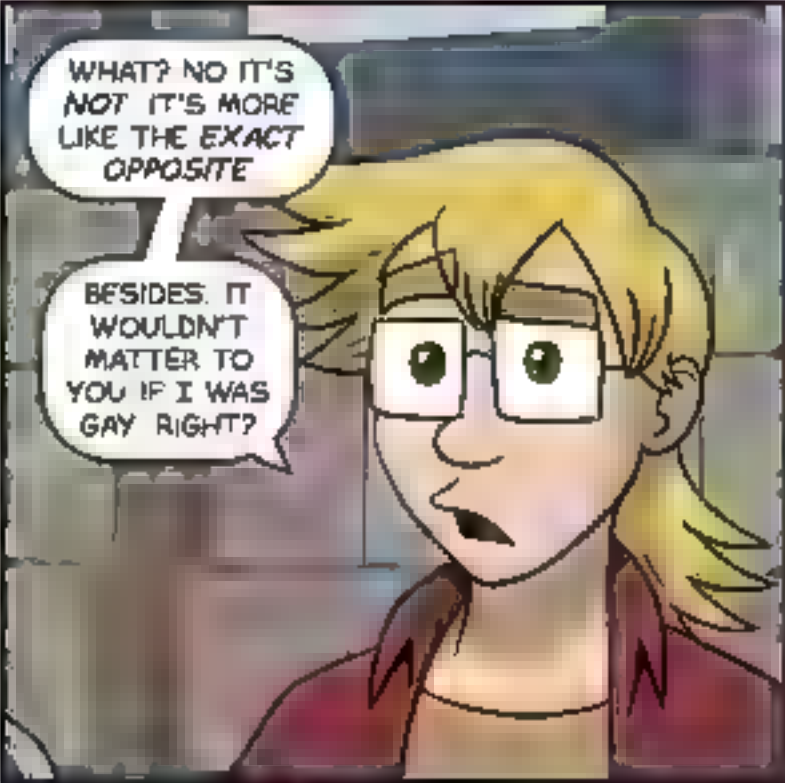


WEIRDED OUT?
BY WHAT?




YOU SAID YOU'D
DATE A DUDE IF
THEY TURNED
INTO A GIRL.

THAT'S...
THAT'S GAY,
DUDE..




WHAT? NO IT'S
NOT IT'S MORE
LIKE THE EXACT
OPPOSITE


BESIDES. IT
WOULDN'T
MATTER TO
YOU IF I WAS
GAY RIGHT?




IT WOULD
MATTER?




YEAH IT WOULD
MATTER! WHAT IF YOU HIT
ON ME OR SOMETHING?!



THAT'S REALLY NOT
SOMETHING YOU'D NEED
TO WORRY ABOUT



WHAT, I'M NOT
GOOD ENOUGH
FOR YOU?!




WHAT ARE YOU
EVEN--DO YOU WANT
ME TO HIT ON YOU?!




I'D LIKE TO THINK THAT IF
YOU WERE GAY YOU WOULD
TOTALLY WANT ME.

YOU KNOW
UNLESS YOU'RE
SHALLOW




UNLESS I'M--YOU
JUDGE WOMEN BASED
ON THEIR LOOKS ALL
THE TIME.




THOSE ARE
CHICKS. WE'RE
BROS.


ASSUMING
YOU'RE NOT
GAY




I'M NOT, BUT..
YOU REALLY HAVE A
PROBLEM WITH GAY
PEOPLE?



OF COURSE NOT! THEY
CAN BE GAY ALL THEY WANT IN
PRIVATE! THAT DOESN'T MEAN I
WANNA HANG OUT WITH THEM.

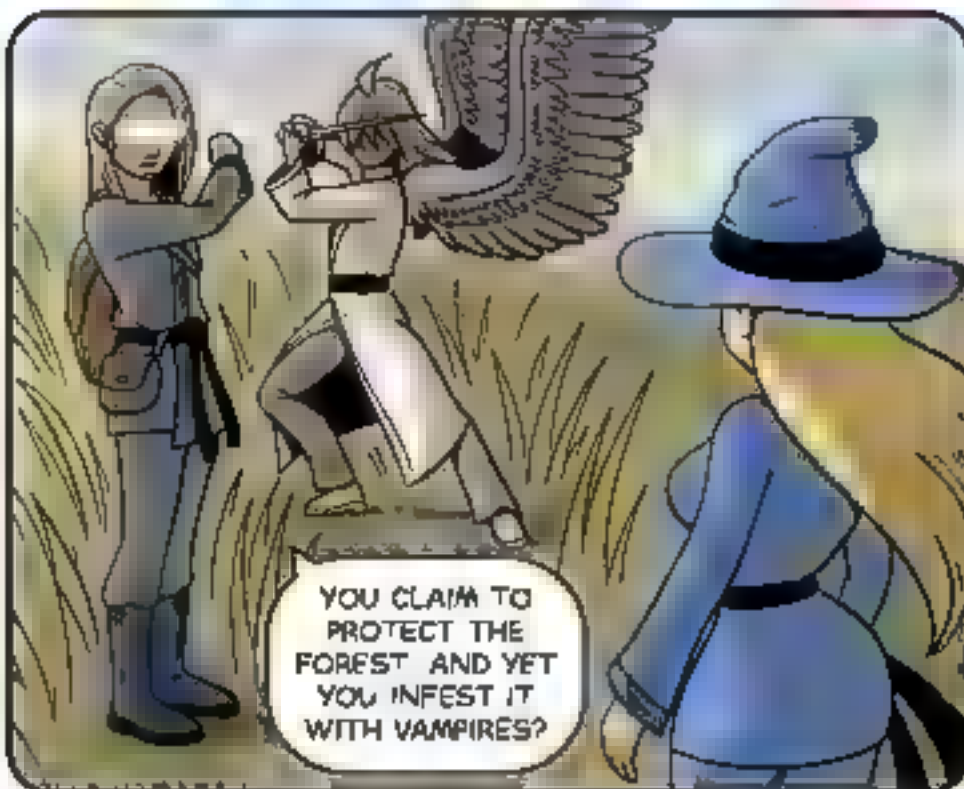
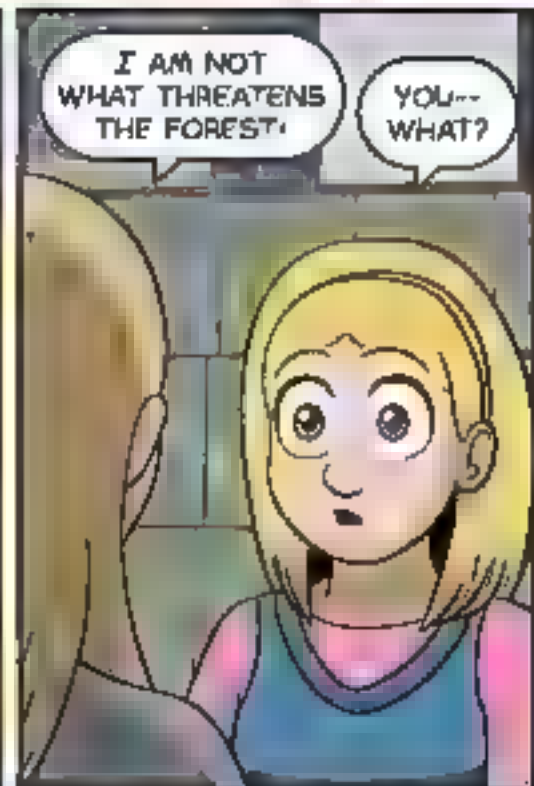
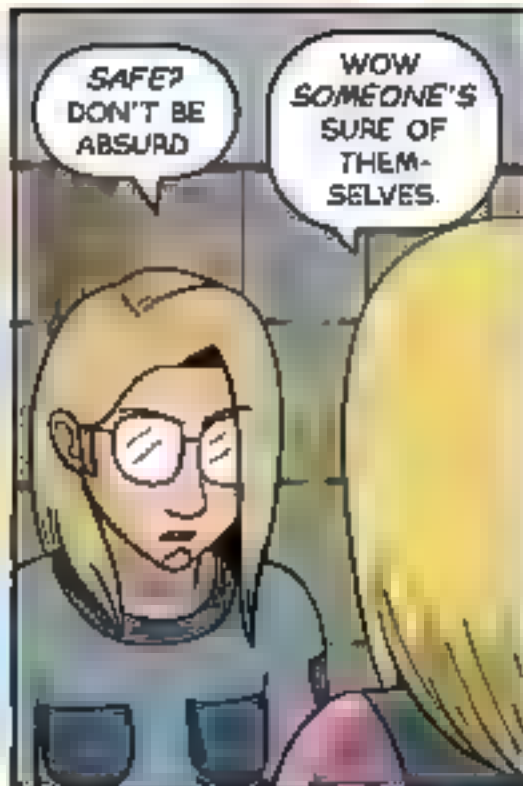
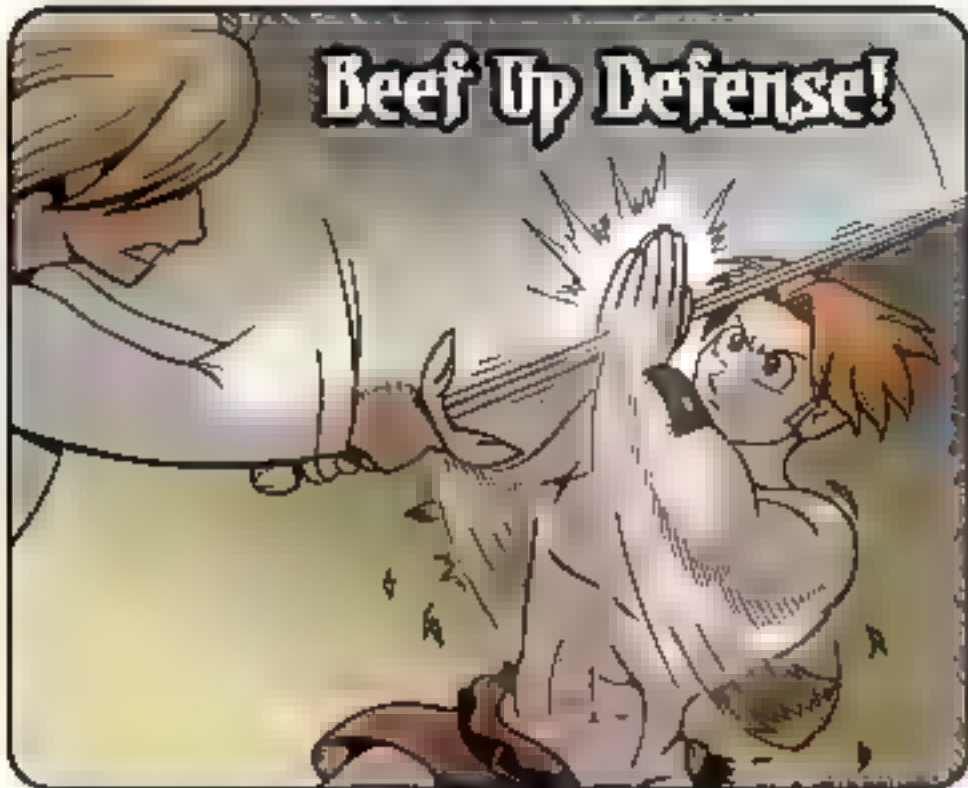
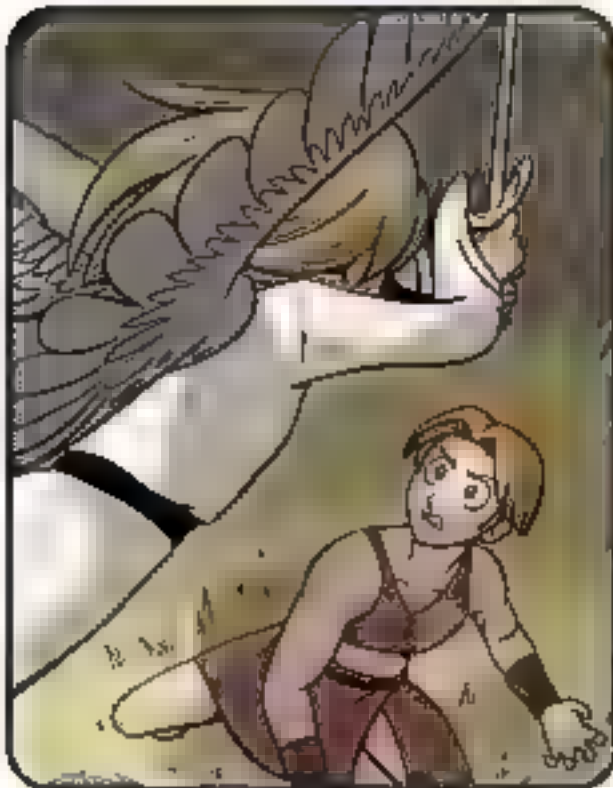


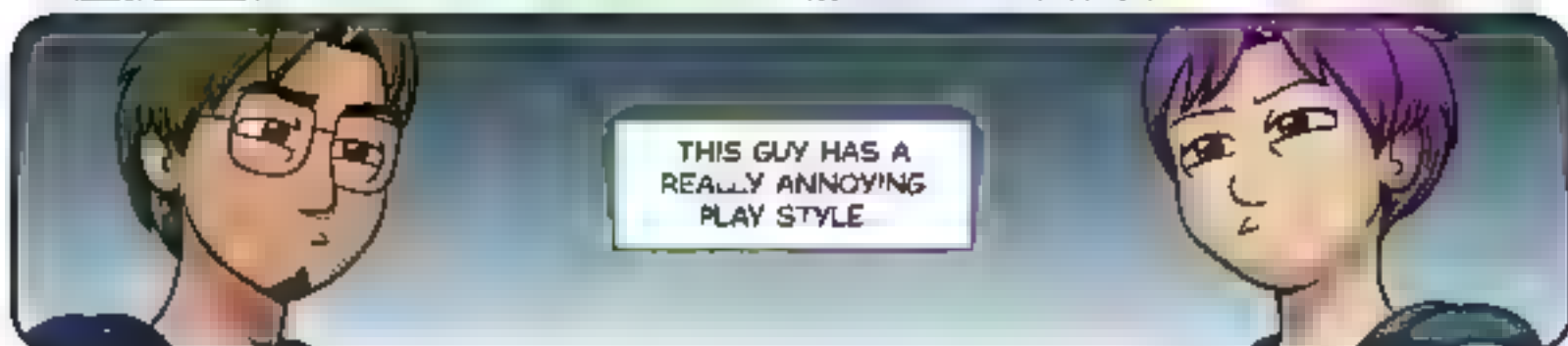
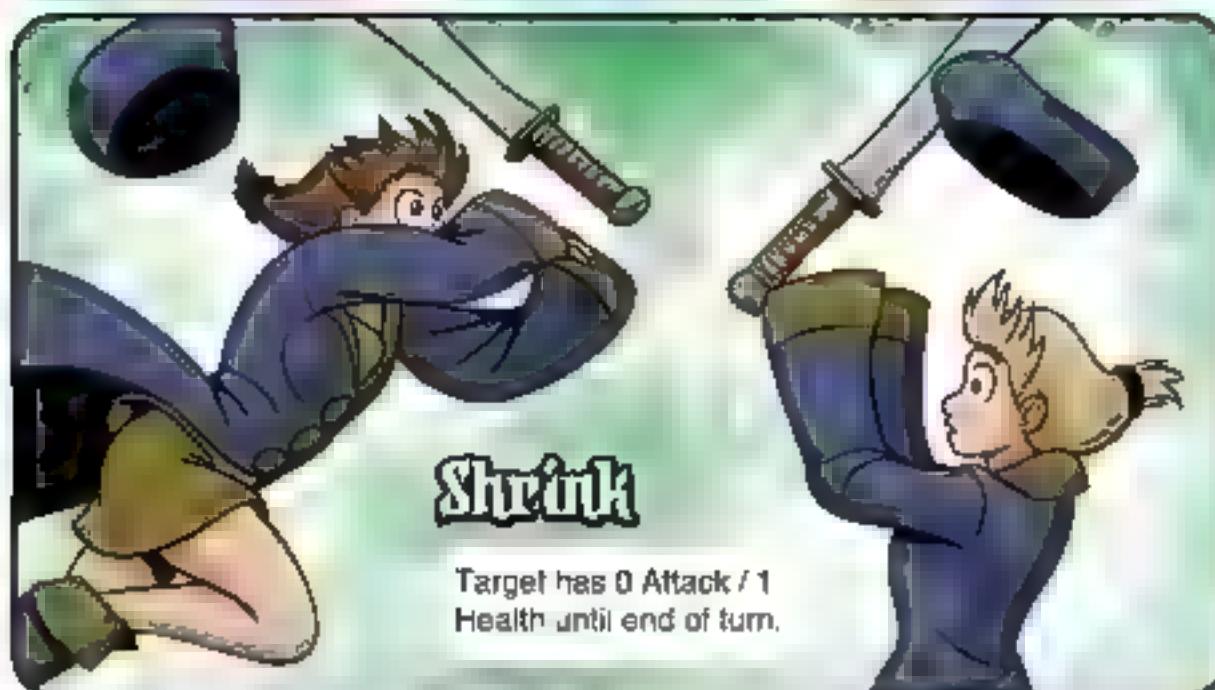
WELL THAT'S
GOOD... SORT
OF I GUESS



UNLESS THEY'RE LADIES
BUT THEN ALL WOMEN ARE
SECRETLY BISEXUAL.

SCIENTIFIC FACT

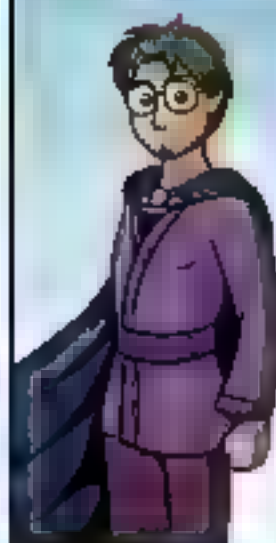




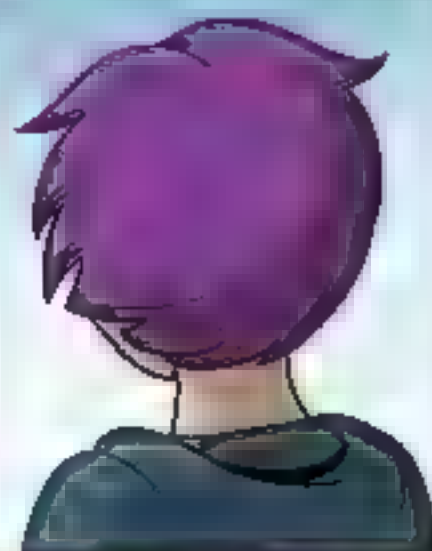
THIS GUY'S ENTIRE PLAY
STYLE IS ABOUT CONTROL.



HE'S NOT
INTERESTED IN
WINNING WITH
BRUTE FORCE.



AT LEAST NOT
EARLY IN THE
GAME



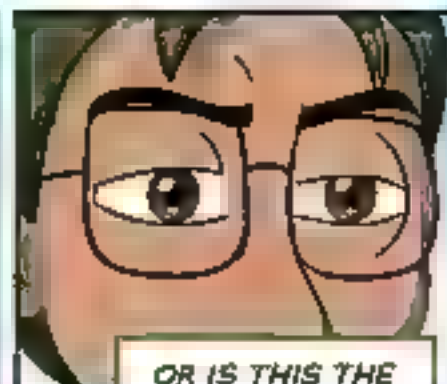
DRAWING EXTRA CARDS,
CANCELING SPELLS... HIS
STRATEGY IS TO LIMIT HIS
OPPONENTS OPTIONS WHILE
MAXIMIZING HIS OWN.



HE'S PATIENT HE
WON'T SHOW HIS PLANS
BEFORE HE NEEDS TO.



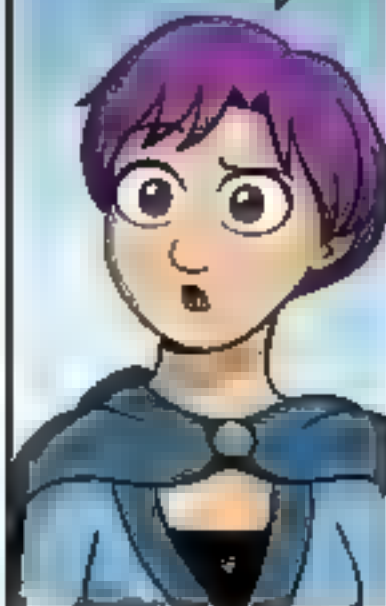
IS THIS JUST HOW HE
PLAYS THE CARDS HE'S
BEEN DEALT



OR IS THIS THE
SORT OF PERSON
HE IS?



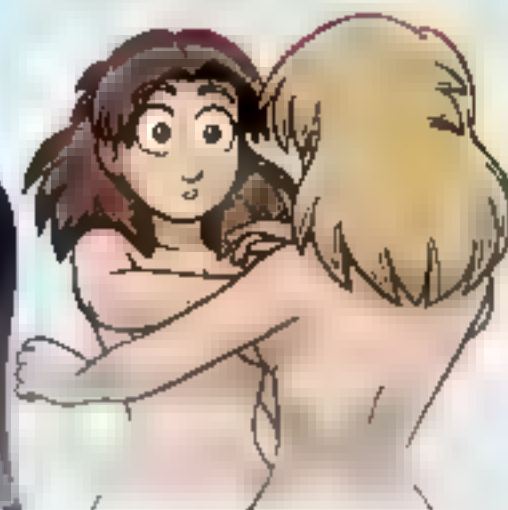
UM,
DUDE?

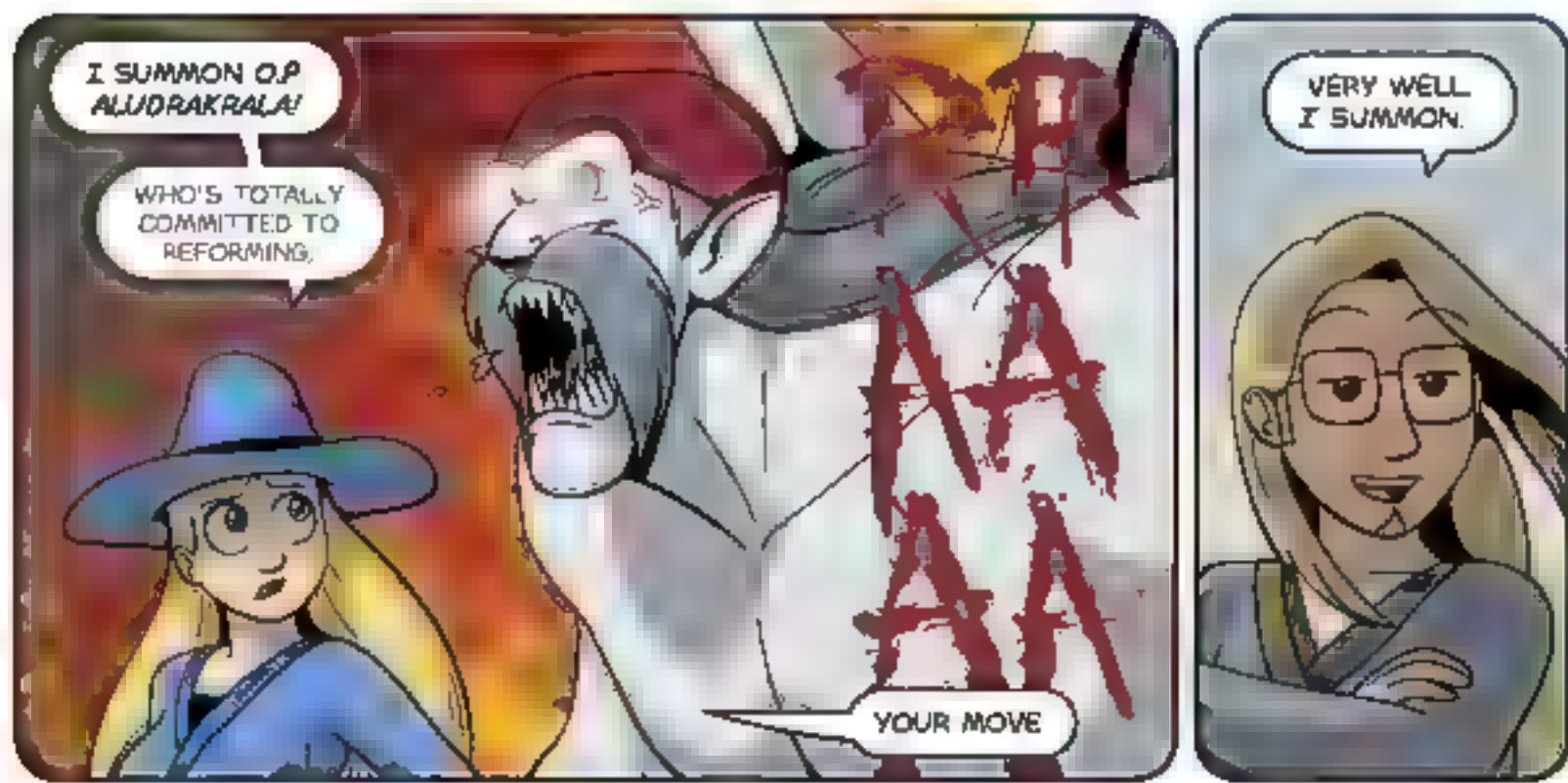


HUH? OH,
RIGHT! SORRY I
END MY TURN.



POOF!





Van Angelsting

3 Attack / 3 Health

Costs 5 Energy to play. Angel

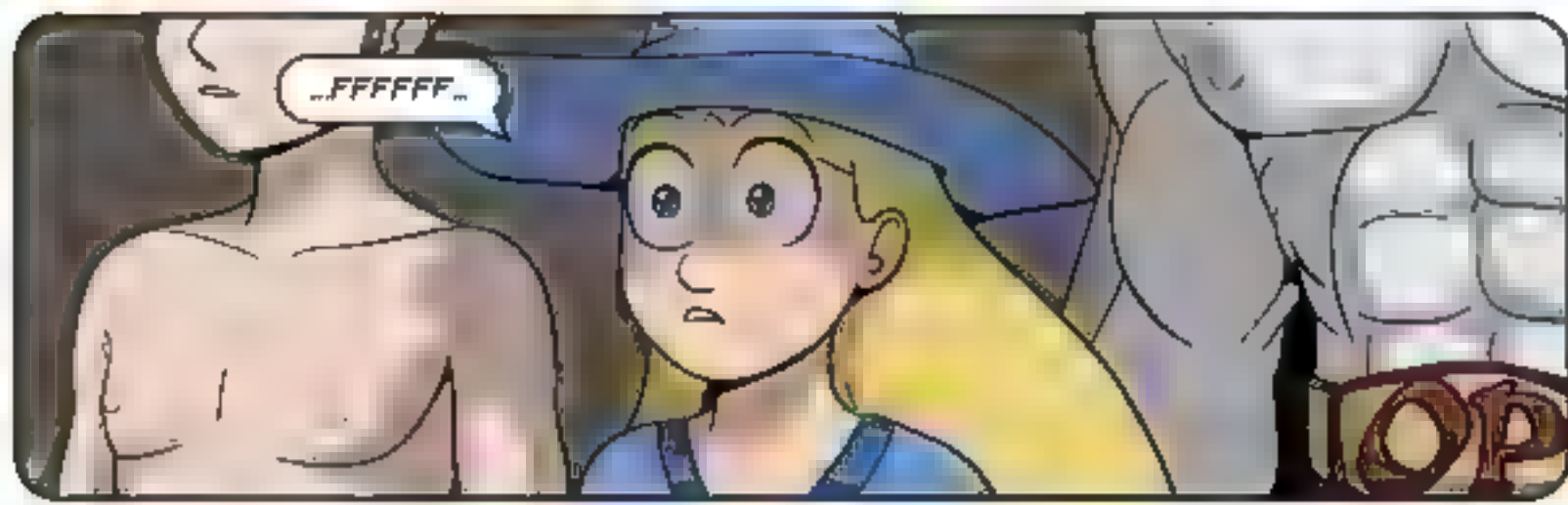
Flies, cannot be the target of spells. Only one Van Angelsting may be in play at a time.

Reduce all damage dealt to Van Angelsting by Vampires to 0.

Van Angelsting gets +1 to Attack for each Vampire your opponent controls. Angels you control have +2 Health.

* Current stats = 5 Attack / 5 Health

You better believe Van Angelsting has vowed to snap all the Vampires in half

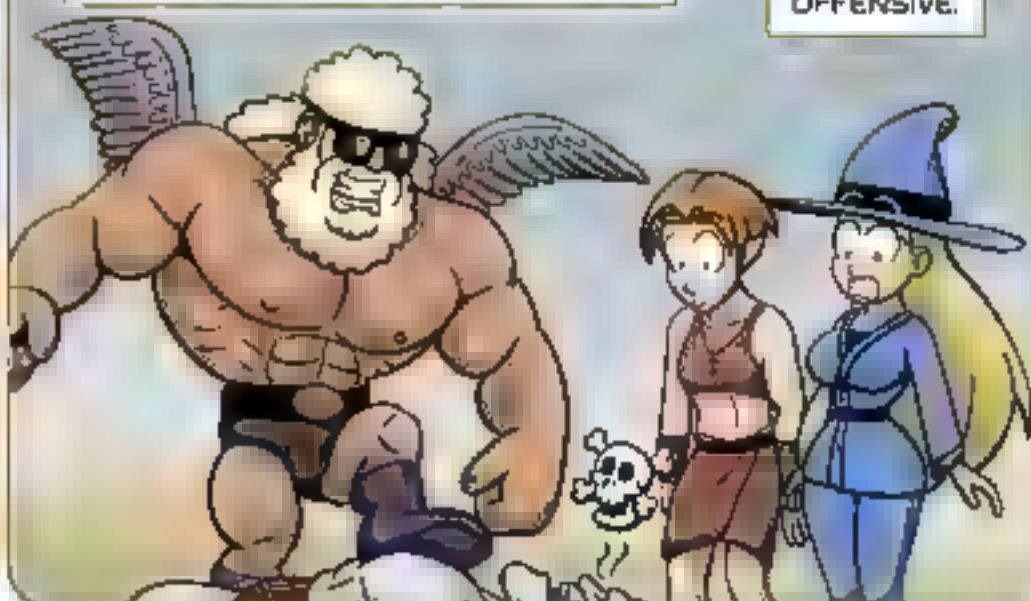


YOUR
MOVE

OKAY OKAY, I
CAN HANDLE
THIS. JUST
THINK IT
THROUGH.

ANYTHING I CAN ATTACK WITH. EVEN
ALUDRAKRALA LOSES TO ANGELSTING.
AND ANGELSTING WILL SURVIVE

I CAN'T
GO ON THE
OFFENSIVE.



IF SAM ATTACKS WITH
ANGELSTING ON HIS NEXT
TURN, HOWEVER, THAT
WOULD LEAVE HIM OPEN TO
ATTACK ON MY TURN.

..AND IF HE ATTACKS WITH SOMETHING ELSE,
ALUDRAKRALA WILL KILL IT, AND BECOME ABLE
TO SURVIVE A FIGHT WITH ANGELSTING, AND
MY OTHER VAMPIRES WILL GET BOOSTS, TOO

SAM CAN'T
GO ON THE
OFFENSIVE,
EITHER.



I GUESS WE'RE
BOTH JUST GOING
TO FORTIFY OUR
FORCES UNTIL ONE
OF US FINDS AN
OPENING

Twenty turns later...

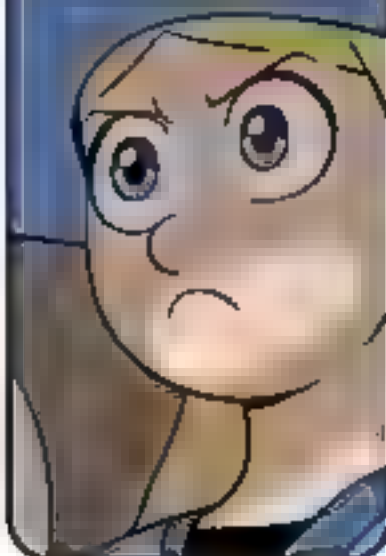
I SUMMON
ANOTHER VAMPIRE
THE FOREST IS
SAFER AND
STUFF GO.

ARE YOU
SURE YOU
DON'T WANT
TO ATTACK?

WHY
DON'T
YOU
ATTACK?

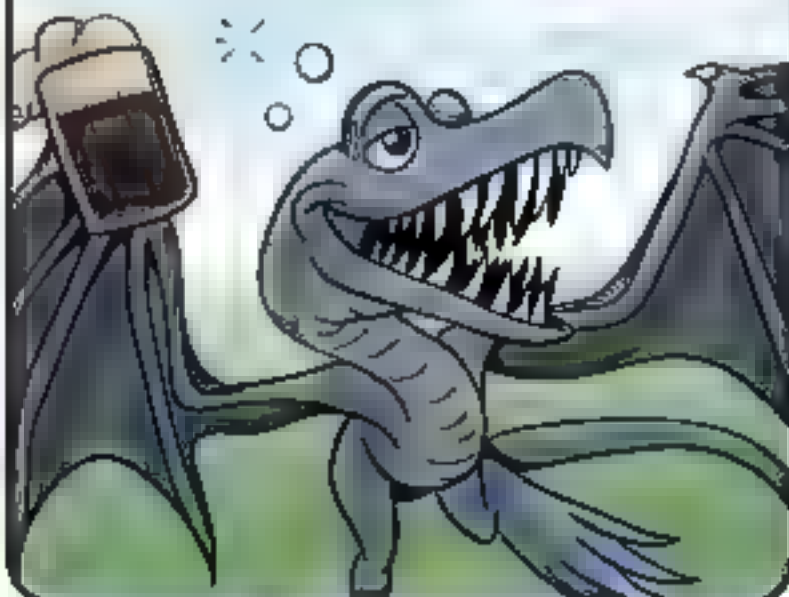
IT'S
YOUR
TURN.

NUH-
UH. I
ENDED
IT



Overpartynus

Return target monster to their owner's hand.



Unbalanced

Enchanted monster cannot fly



Snorified

Enchanted monster has -3 Attack, +3 Health, and cannot attack.



Ditzified

Flip a coin whenever enchanted monster attacks, blocks, or uses an ability. If tails, they do nothing instead.



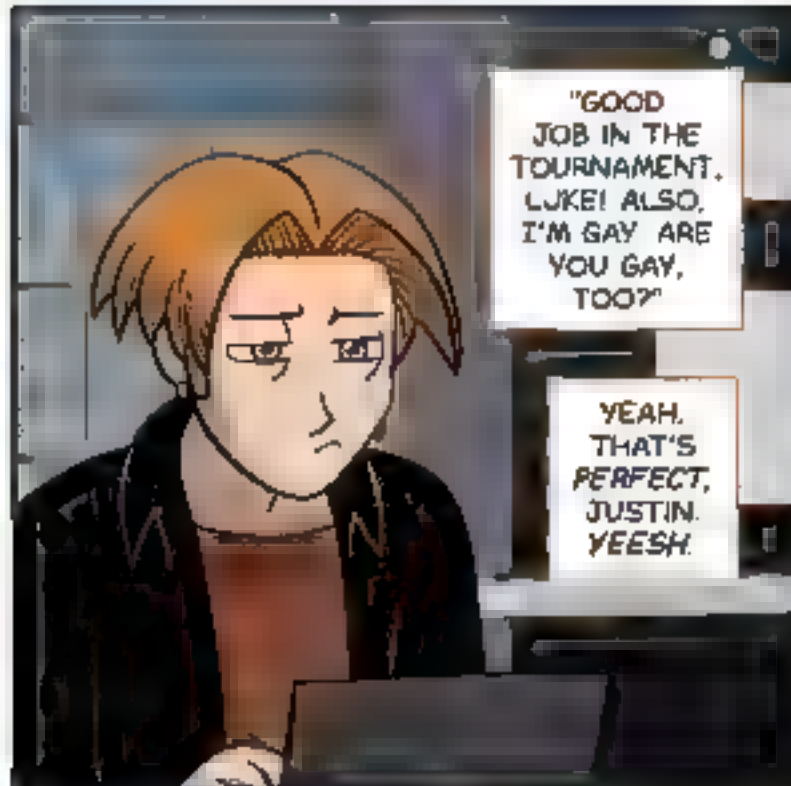
Penguininus

Target monster is a penguin



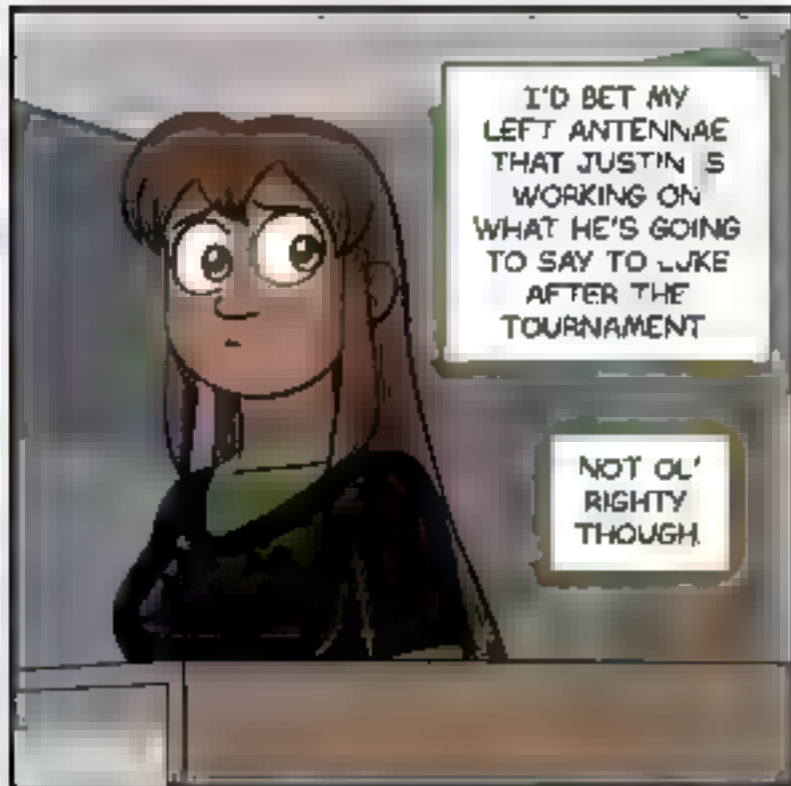
YOUR DECK IS INFURIATING!





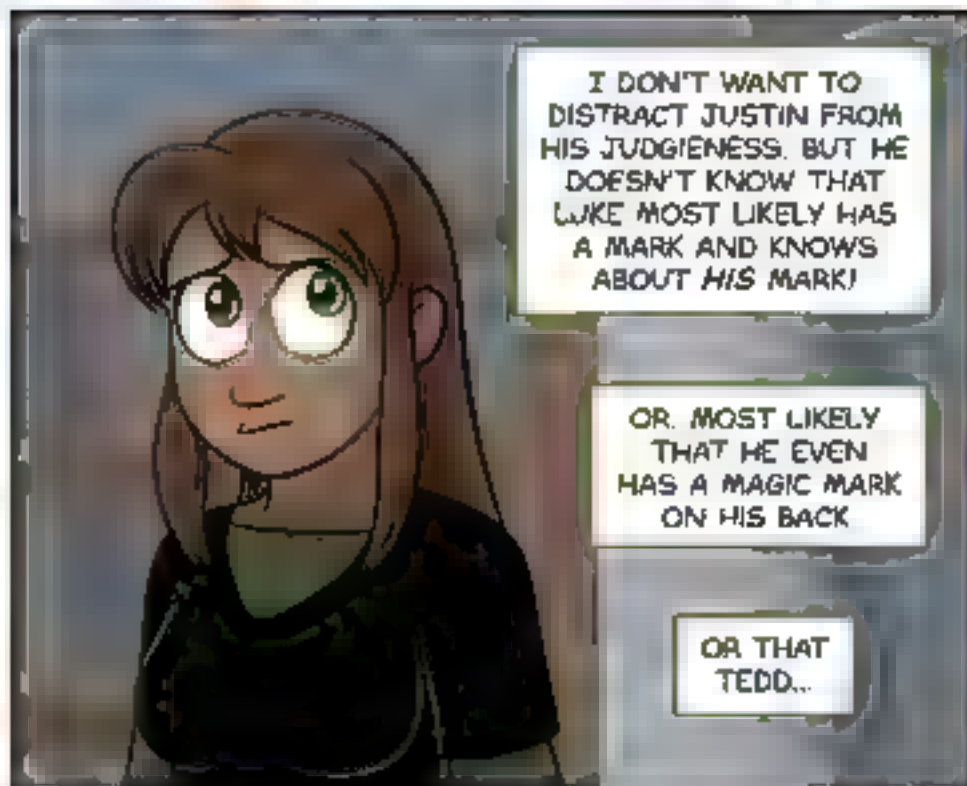
"GOOD
JOB IN THE
TOURNAMENT,
LUKE! ALSO,
I'M GAY ARE
YOU GAY,
TOO?"

YEAH.
THAT'S
PERFECT,
JUSTIN.
YEESH.



I'D BET MY
LEFT ANTENNAE
THAT JUSTIN IS
WORKING ON
WHAT HE'S GOING
TO SAY TO LUKE
AFTER THE
TOURNAMENT

NOT OL'
RIGHTY
THOUGH.



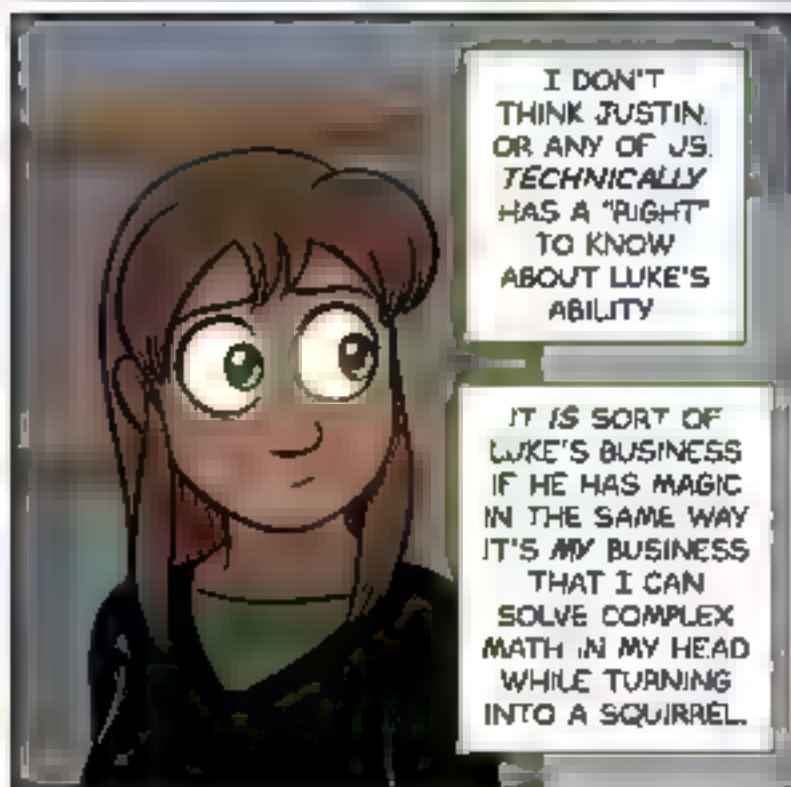
I DON'T WANT TO
DISTRACT JUSTIN FROM
HIS JUDGIENESS. BUT HE
DOESN'T KNOW THAT
LUKE MOST LIKELY HAS
A MARK AND KNOWS
ABOUT HIS MARK!

OR, MOST LIKELY
THAT HE EVEN
HAS A MAGIC MARK
ON HIS BACK

OR THAT
TEDD...

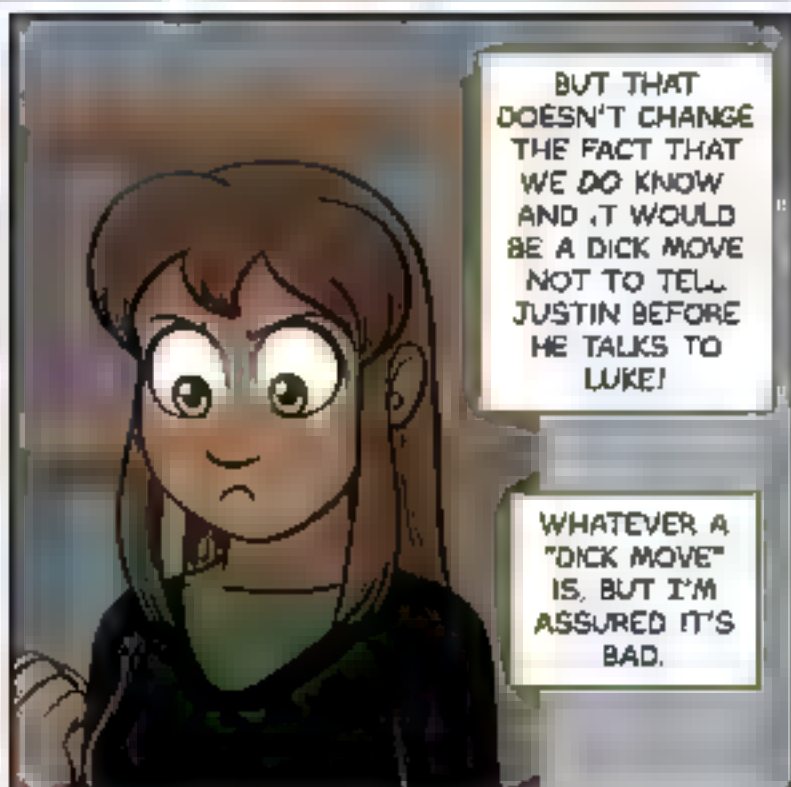


WOW WE HAVE
NOT KEPT JUSTIN IN
THE LOOP TONIGHT



I DON'T
THINK JUSTIN,
OR ANY OF US,
TECHNICALLY
HAS A "RIGHT"
TO KNOW
ABOUT LUKE'S
ABILITY

IT IS SORT OF
LUKE'S BUSINESS
IF HE HAS MAGIC
IN THE SAME WAY
IT'S MY BUSINESS
THAT I CAN
SOLVE COMPLEX
MATH IN MY HEAD
WHILE TURNING
INTO A SQUIRREL.

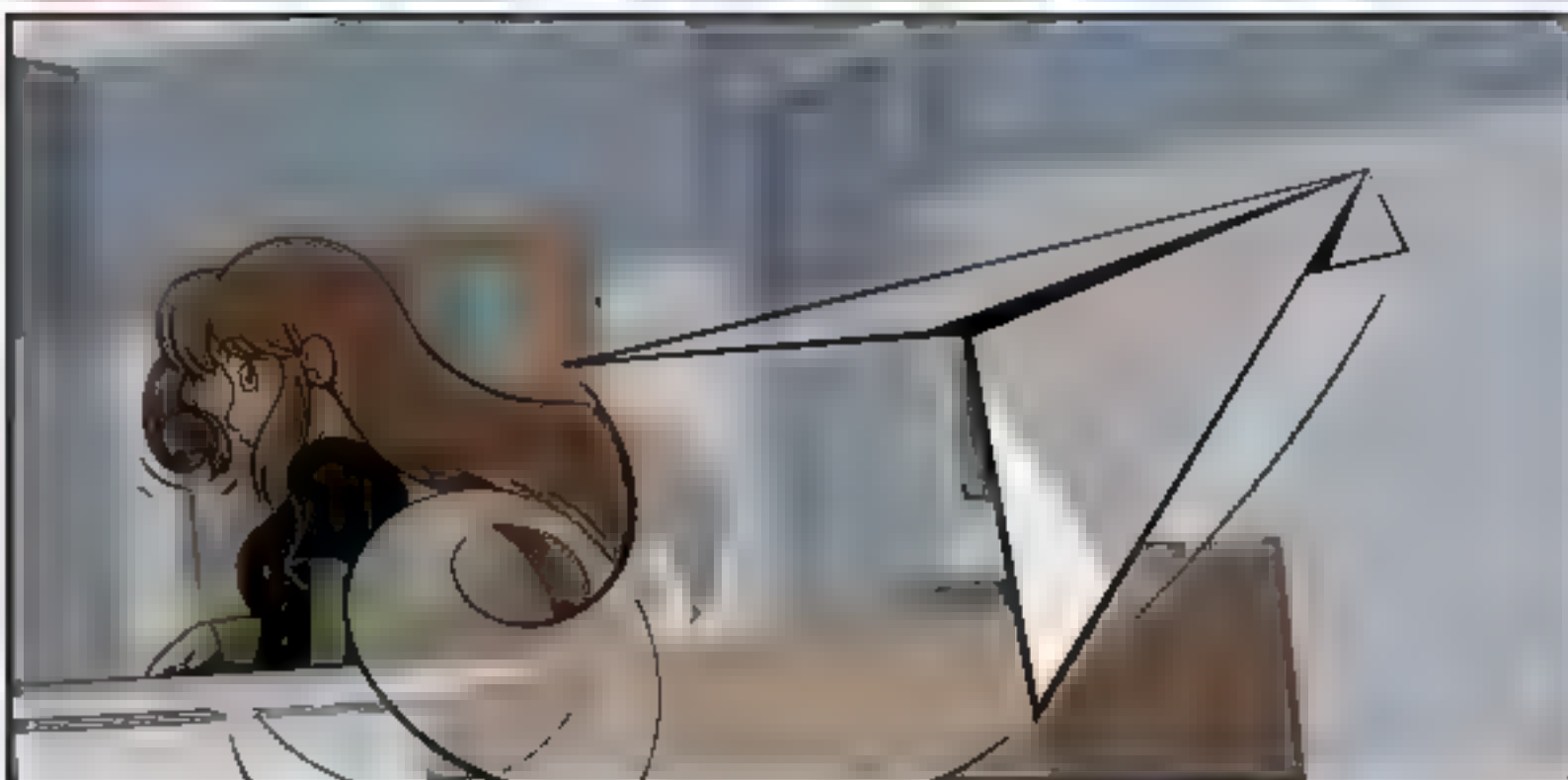
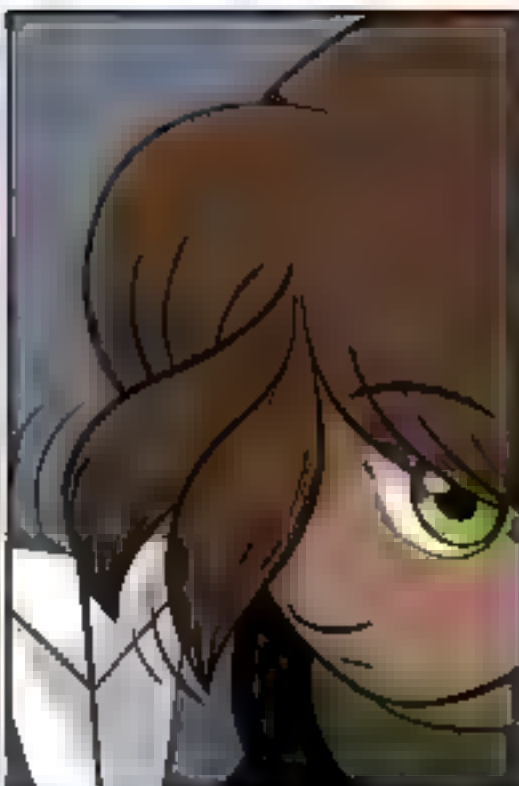
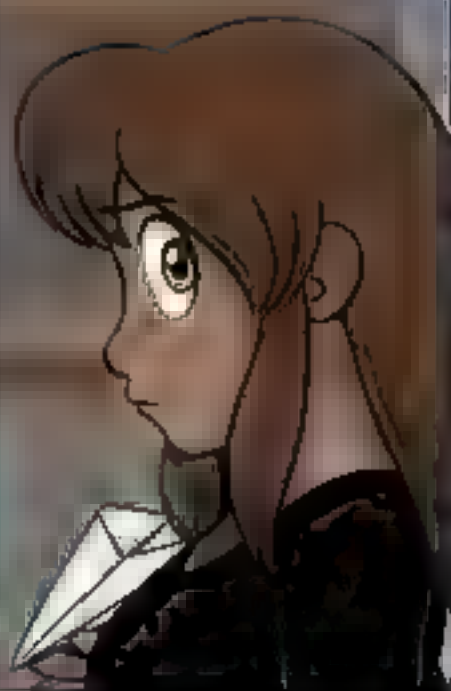


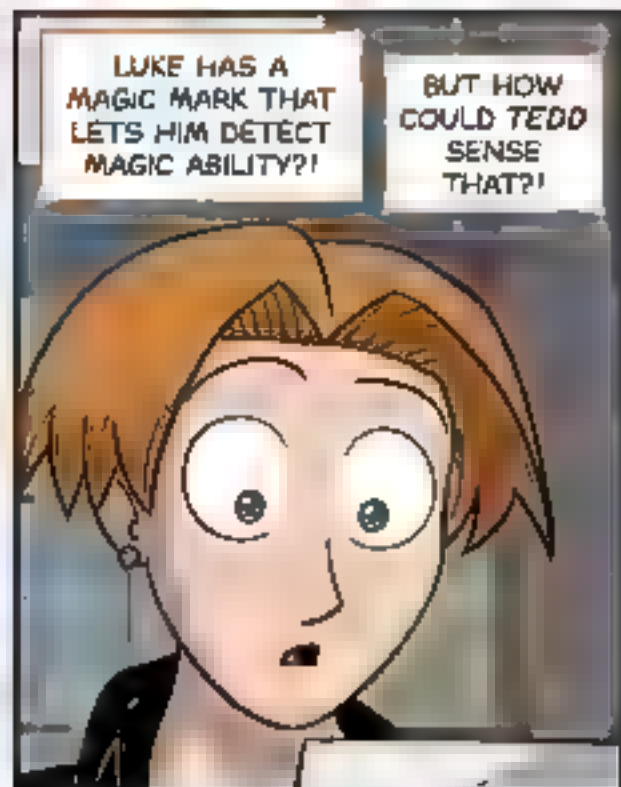
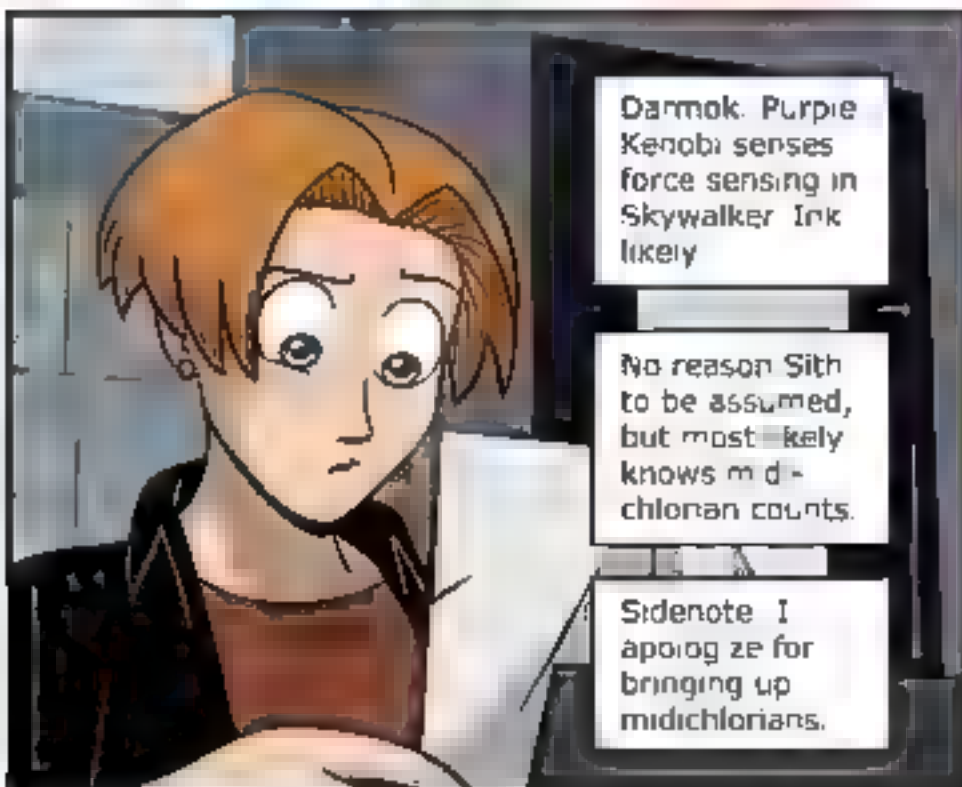
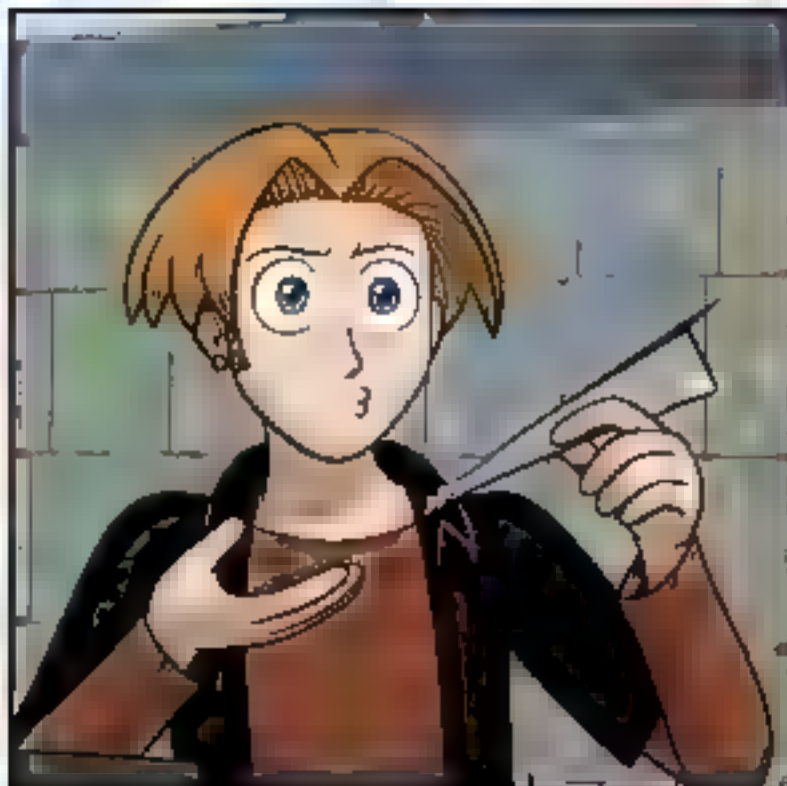
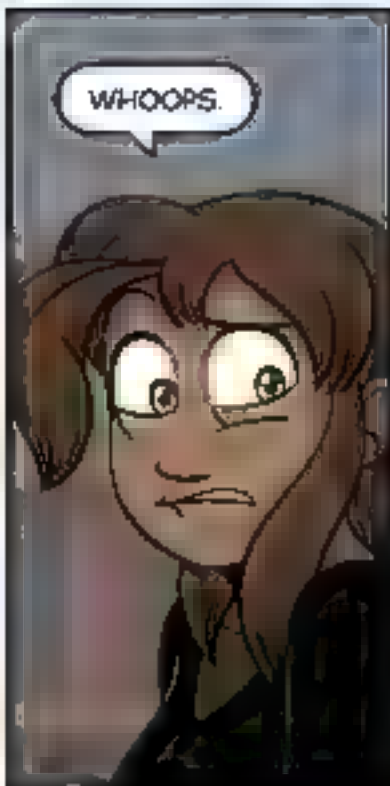
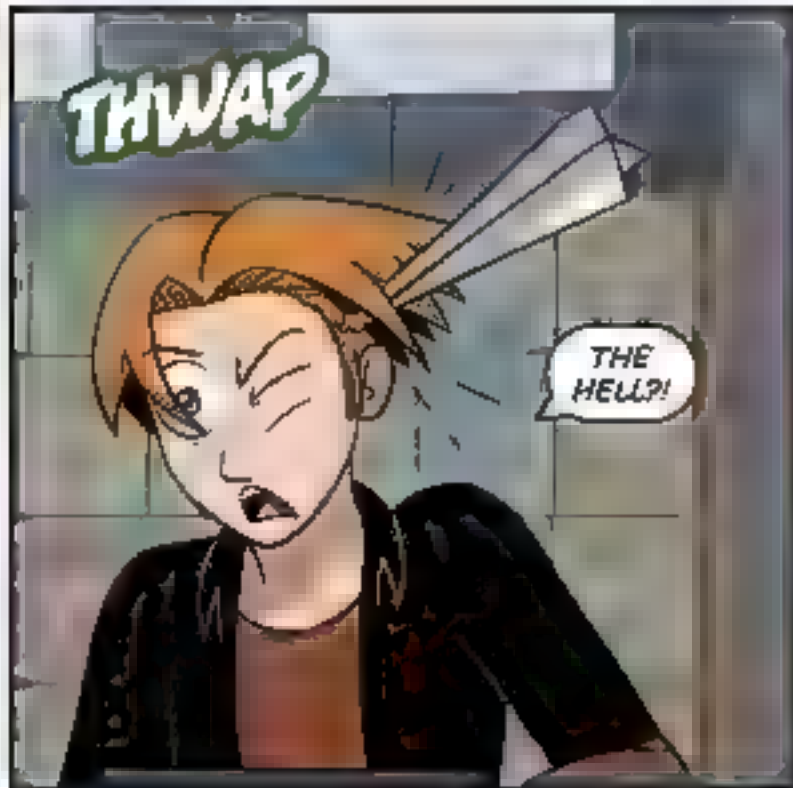
BUT THAT
DOESN'T CHANGE
THE FACT THAT
WE DO KNOW
AND IT WOULD
BE A DICK MOVE
NOT TO TELL
JUSTIN BEFORE
HE TALKS TO
LUKE!

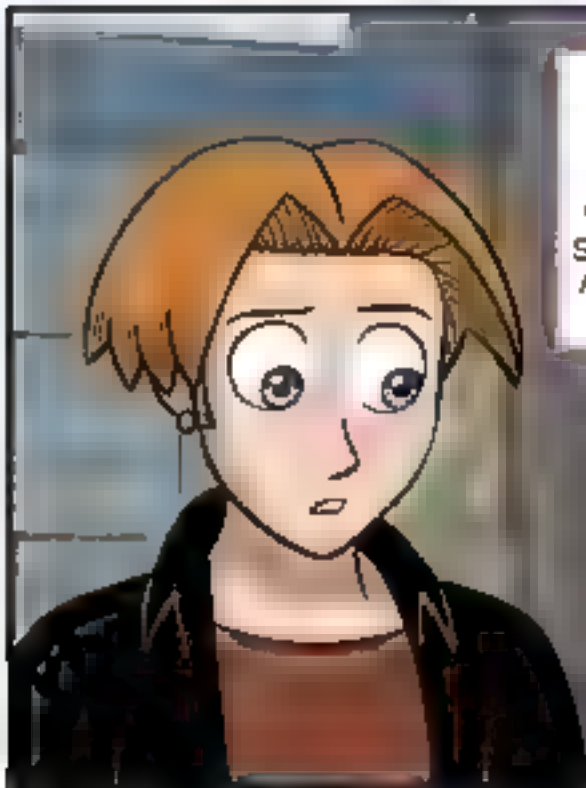
WHATEVER A
"DICK MOVE"
IS, BUT I'M
ASSURED IT'S
BAD.

OKAY THIS MESSAGE SHOULD
BE CODED ENOUGH TO RISK
GIVING TO JUSTIN.

NOW TO
DISCREETLY
SEND IT

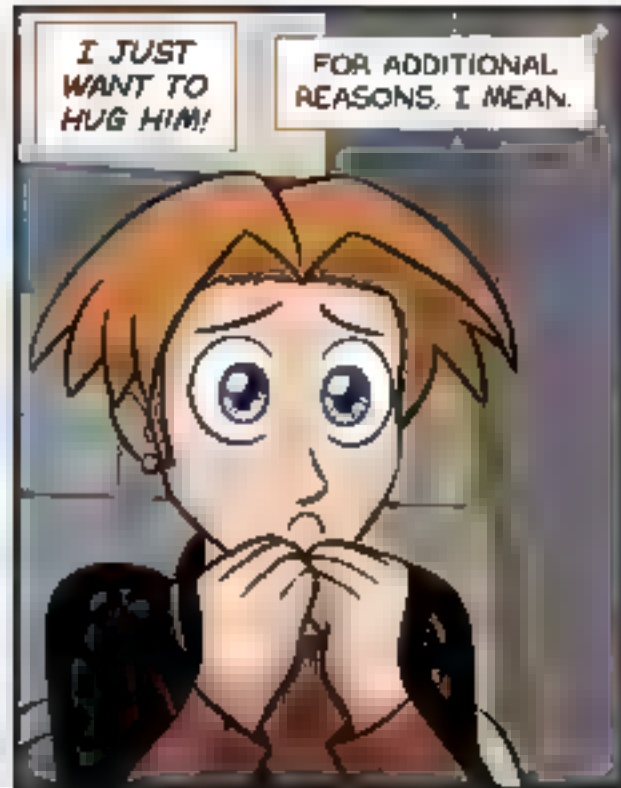






THE POOR GUY
GETS A MAGIC MARK
OUT OF NOWHERE.
SEES WHO KNOWS
WHAT TRIES TO GET
SOME ANSWERS. SEES
ABSURD ALIEN HYBRID
MAGIC POWER.

AND THEN
GATHERS THE
NERVE TO COME
BACK BECAUSE HE
NEEDS ANSWERS
THAT BADLY?



I JUST
WANT TO
HUG HIM!

FOR ADDITIONAL
REASONS. I MEAN.



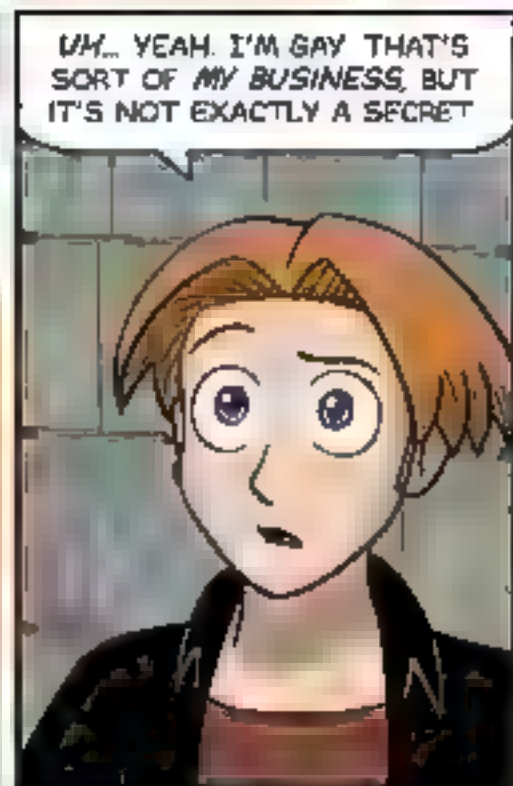
HEY UH,
MY MATCH
RESULTS.

HM? OH,
SURE HOW'D
YOU DO?



WON TWO
OUT OF
THREE. UH...

YOU'RE
GAY
RIGHT?



UH... YEAH. I'M GAY THAT'S
SORT OF MY BUSINESS, BUT
IT'S NOT EXACTLY A SECRET

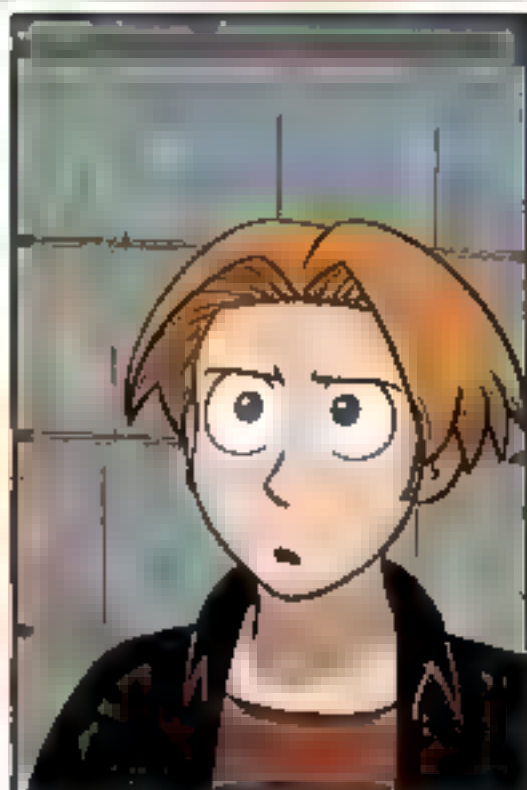


RIGHT RIGHT
NOT TRYING TO
TO BE RUDE,
BUT AH.

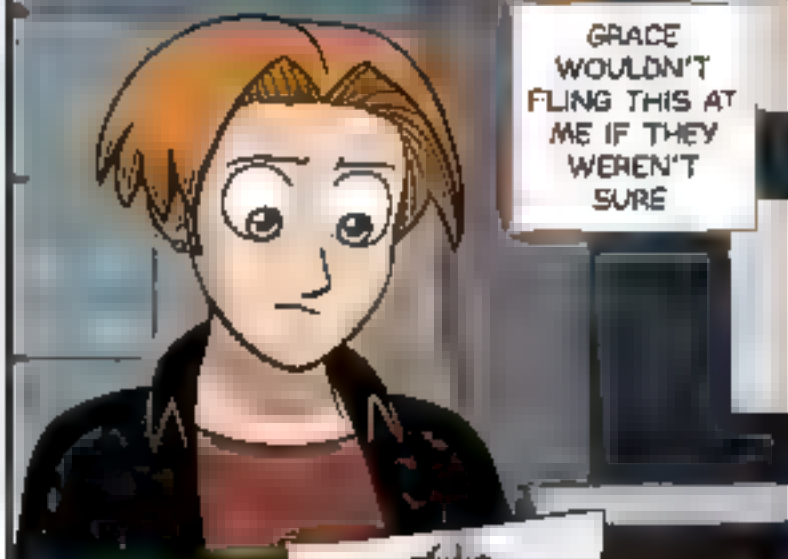
BUT
WHAT?



YOU'RE COOL WITH
PEOPLE SAYING "THAT'S GAY"
AND STUFF RIGHT? LIKE, YOU
KNOW THE PEOPLE SAYING IT
DON'T REALLY HAVE A
PROBLEM WITH GAY PEOPLE?



WHAT AM I THINKING? HE'S TEDD! HE PROBABLY TURNED A TOY FROM A KID'S MEAL INTO A RADAR FOR MAGIC OR SOMETHING.



GRACE WOULDN'T FLING THIS AT ME IF THEY WEREN'T SURE

HELLO! YOU HERE FOR THE TOURNAMENT?

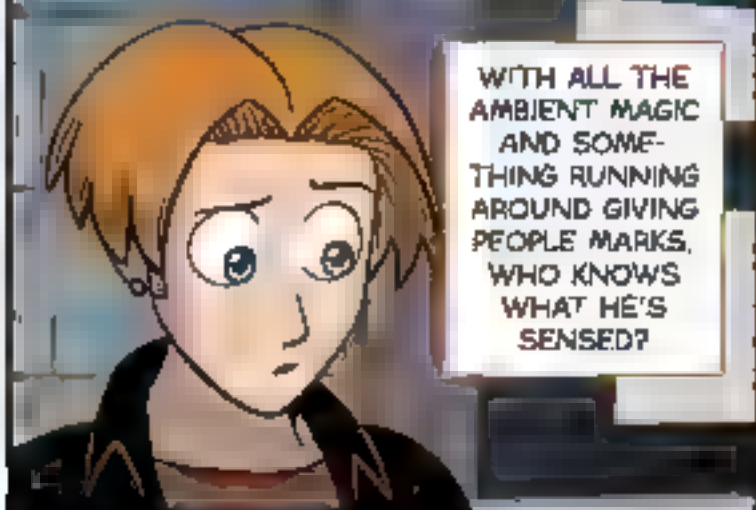
OH, NO JUST CHECKING STUFF OUT UH.



YOU'RE THAT GUY WHO KICKED THAT FIRE DUDE INTO THE RIVER, RIGHT. ?

IF LUKE IS LIKE DEX, HE WAS GIVEN A MARK WITHOUT HIS KNOWLEDGE..

WHICH MEANS AT SOME POINT LUKE FOUND HIMSELF ABLE TO SENSE MAGIC AND NO CLUE WHY



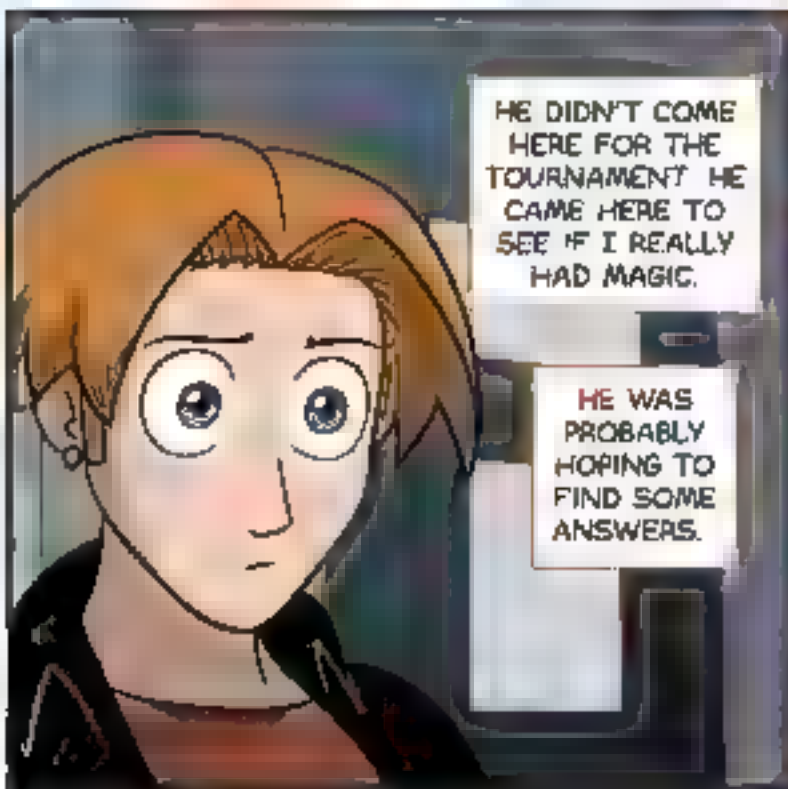
WITH ALL THE AMBIENT MAGIC AND SOMETHING RUNNING AROUND GIVING PEOPLE MARKS, WHO KNOWS WHAT HE'S SENSED?

MEANWHILE I'M THAT GUY WHO FOUGHT A FIRE DUDE ALONGSIDE A SUPER HERO.

A MOST LIKELY GOOD GUY WITH WEIRD POWER.



AND GOT MORE THAN HE BARGAINED FOR WITH GRACE, THE MOST RIDICULOUSLY OVERPOWERED PERSON IN MOPERVILLE.



HE DIDN'T COME HERE FOR THE TOURNAMENT HE CAME HERE TO SEE IF I REALLY HAD MAGIC.

HE WAS PROBABLY HOPING TO FIND SOME ANSWERS.



YOU MAY AS WELL MAKE
YOUR MOVE! THE RESOURCES
OF THE FOREST WILL SOON
RUN OUT! SOMEHOW!

I'M NOT SURE HOW THAT
WOULD HAPPEN WITH A
FOREST, BUT I'M TRYING TO
STICK TO A NARRATIVE!

WHAT DO YOU
MEAN. "RUN OUT
OF RESOURCES"?

UH. YOUR DECK?
IF YOU HAVE TO
DRAW A CARD, BUT
THERE AREN'T ANY
CARDS LEFT IN YOUR
DECK, YOU LOSE

WITH OUR TURN
ORDER, YOU'LL RUN
OUT OF YOUR FORTY
CARDS FIRST AND
I'LL WIN.

YOU NEED TO WIN
WITHIN YOUR NEXT
TWO TURNS.

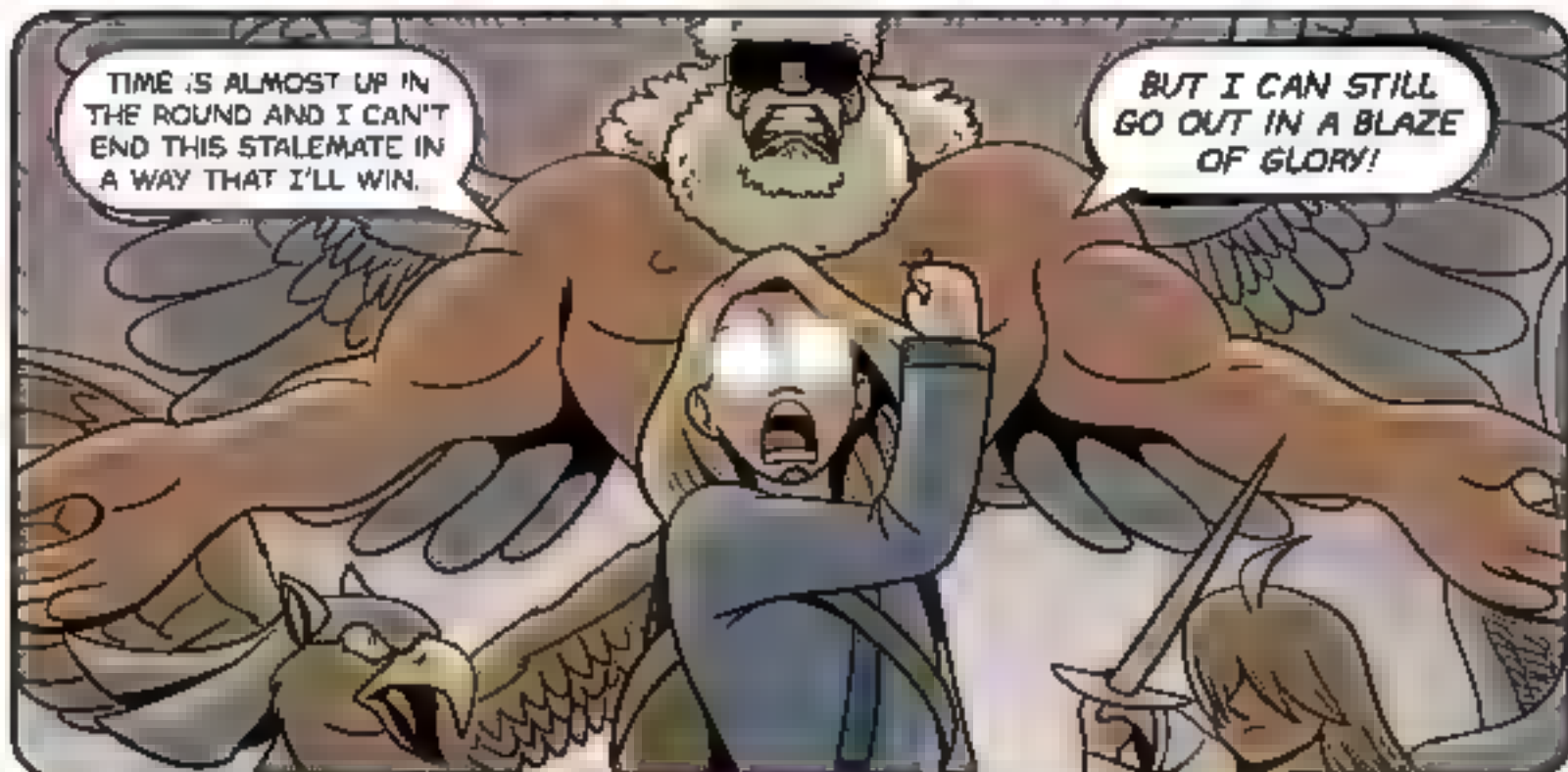
BUT I HAVE
A FORTY-TWO
CARD DECK

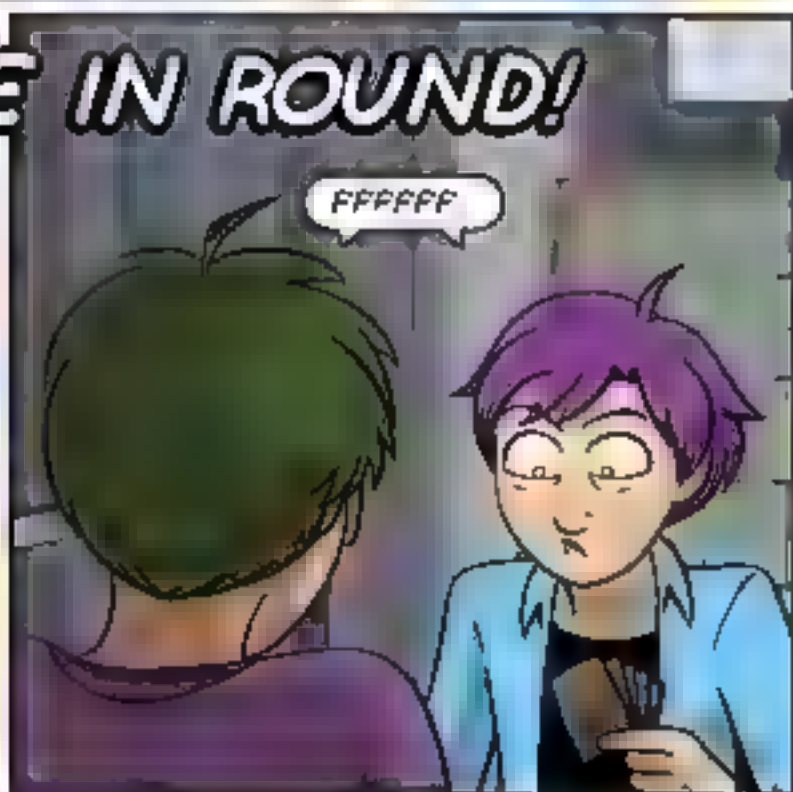
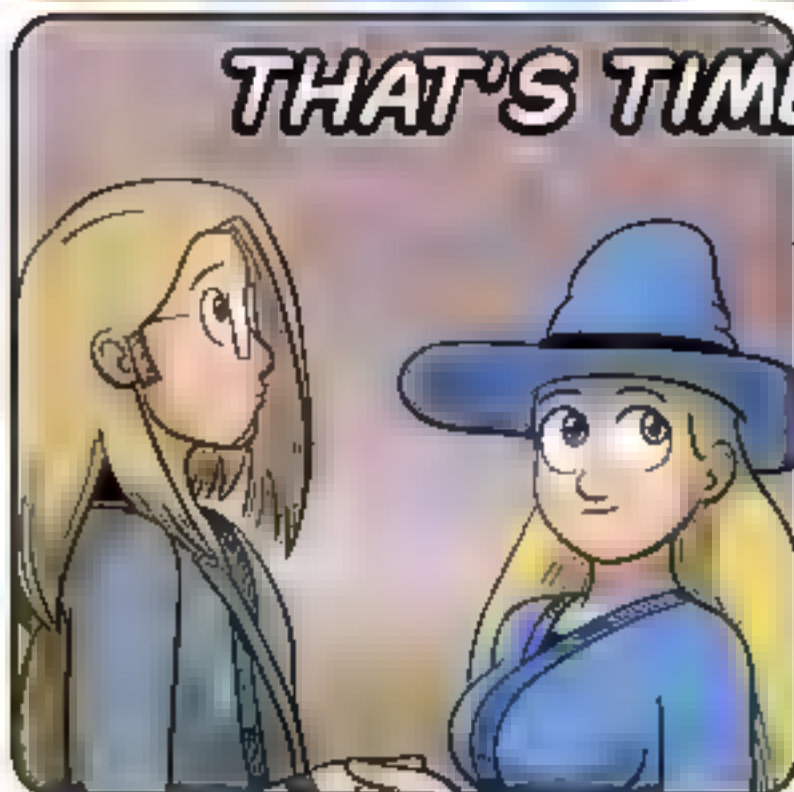
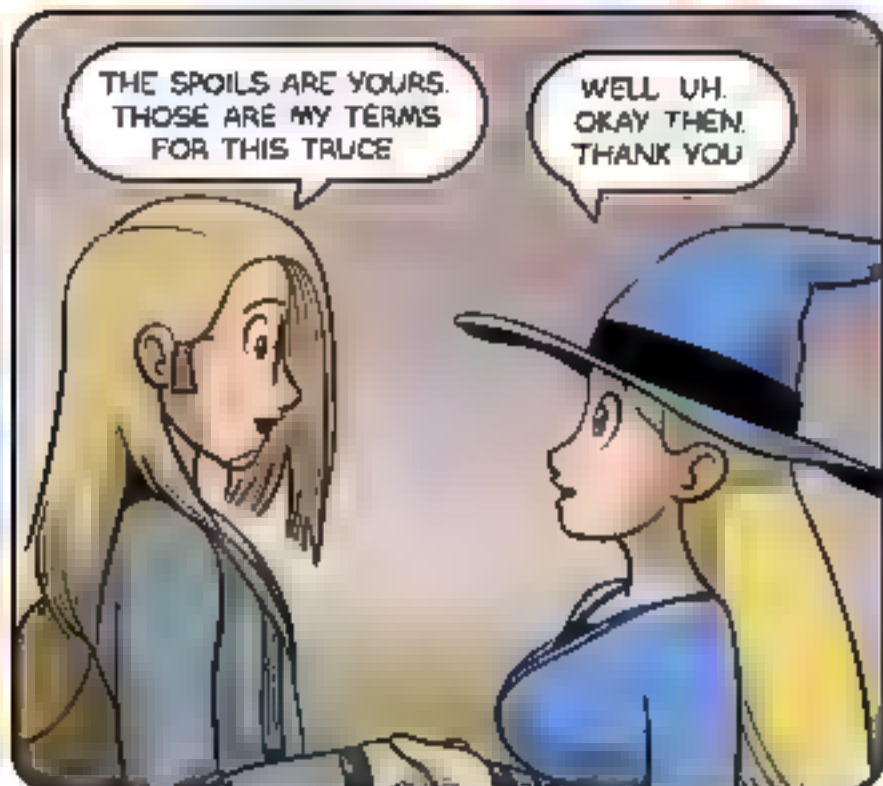
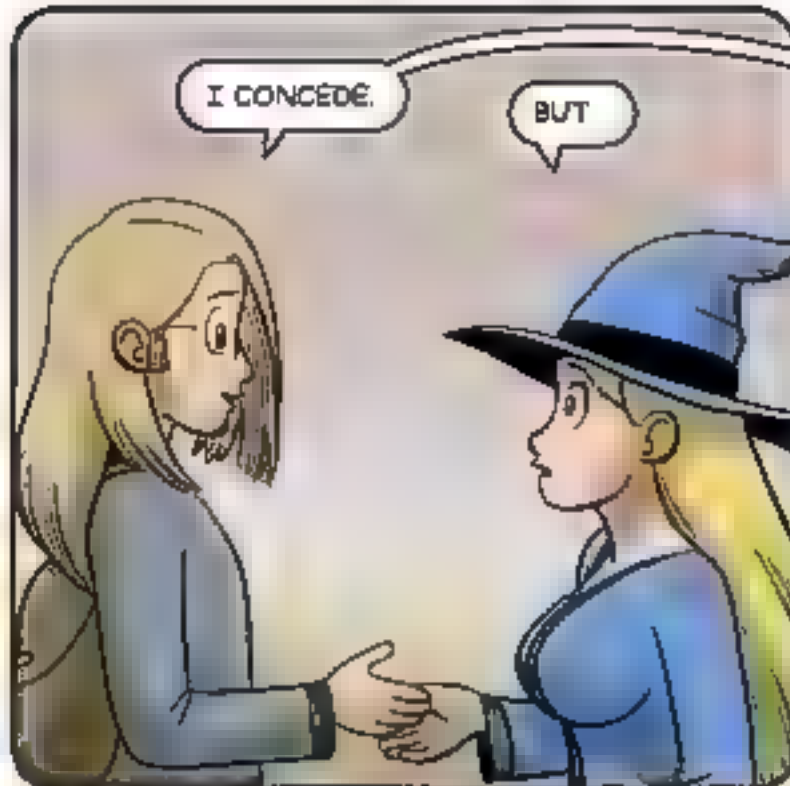
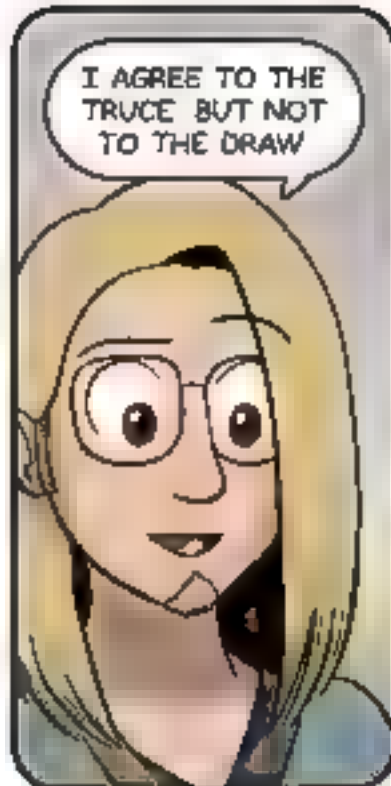
WHAT

THE *MINIMUM* DECK SIZE IS
FORTY, AND I COULDN'T DECIDE
WHAT TO TAKE OUT SO. UH.

FORTY-TWO HEH?

OKAY
THEN..





SO WHAT
HAPPENS NOW? IS
THIS A DRAW?



WE HAVE FIVE MORE TURNS
TO FINISH THIS GAME IF
NEITHER OF US HAS WON
BY THE END OF THOSE FIVE
TURNS. THEN IT'S A DRAW



OH. GOOD. FIVE TURNS.
FIFTY MINUTES WASN'T
LONG ENOUGH, BUT FIVE
TURNS? THAT'LL DO IT



WELL, WHAT DO
YOU EXPECT WHEN
YOUR DECK IS AS
SLOW AS YOURS?



AS SLOW AS MINE? YOUR
DECK IS LIKE A GLACIER! JUST
CANCELING AND ENCHANTING
EVERYTHING AND NEGATING
ATTACKS...



THAT'S
WHAT
YOUR DECK
DOES

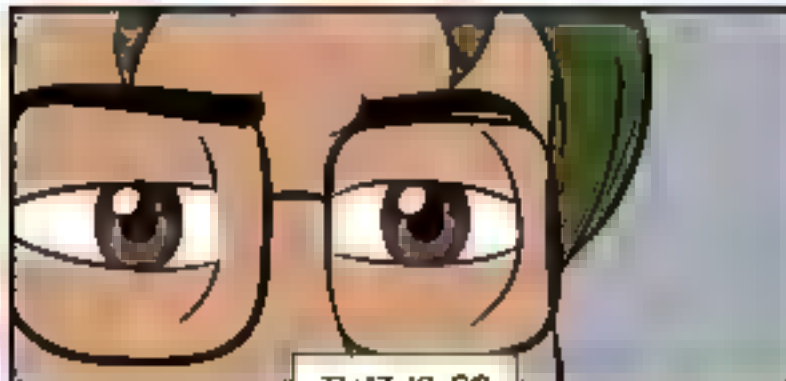
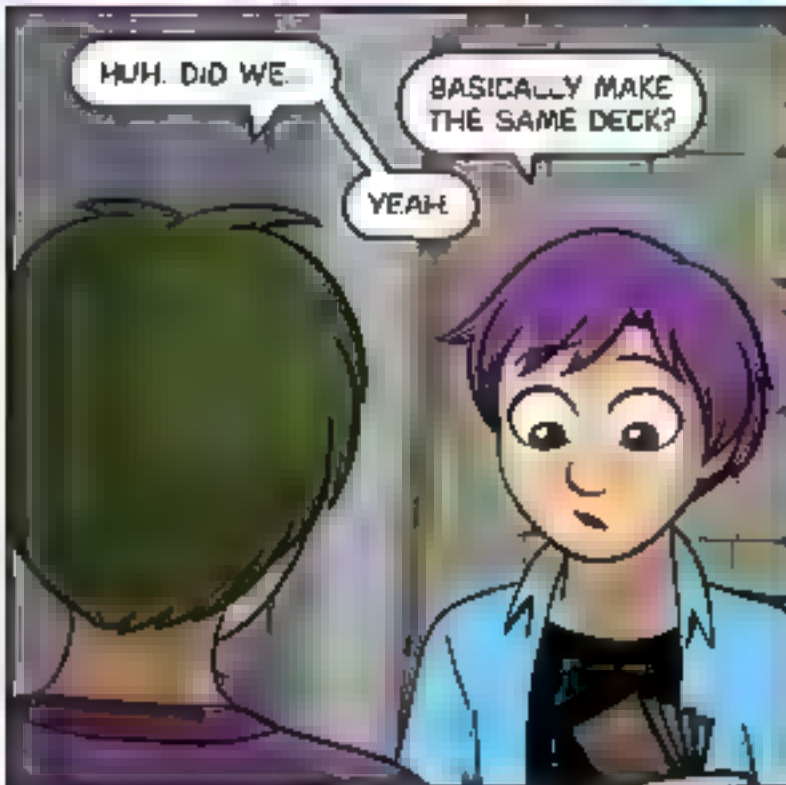
WELL
SO DOES
YOURS!



HUH. DID WE

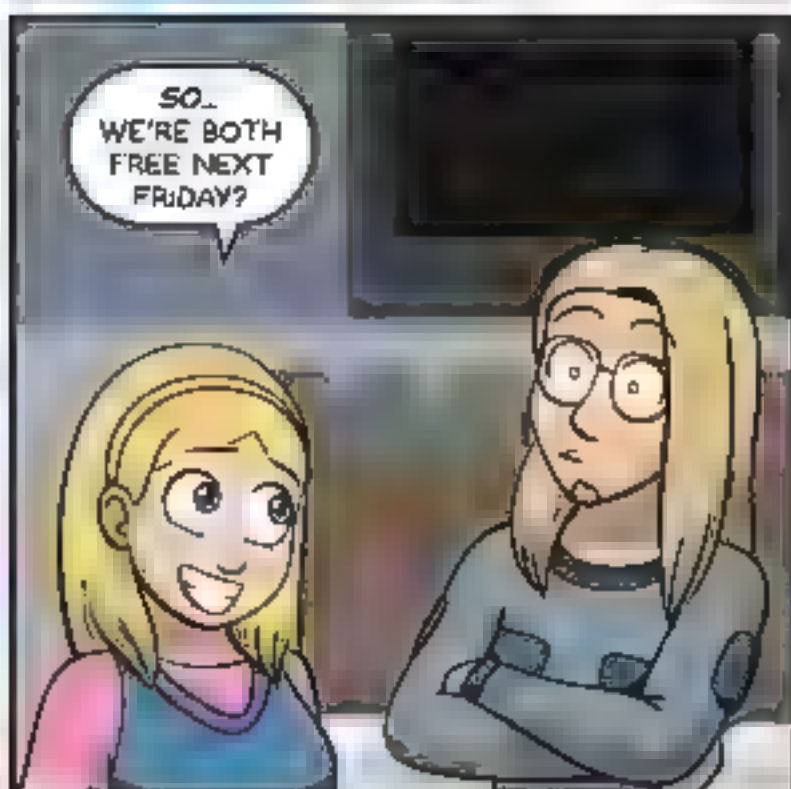
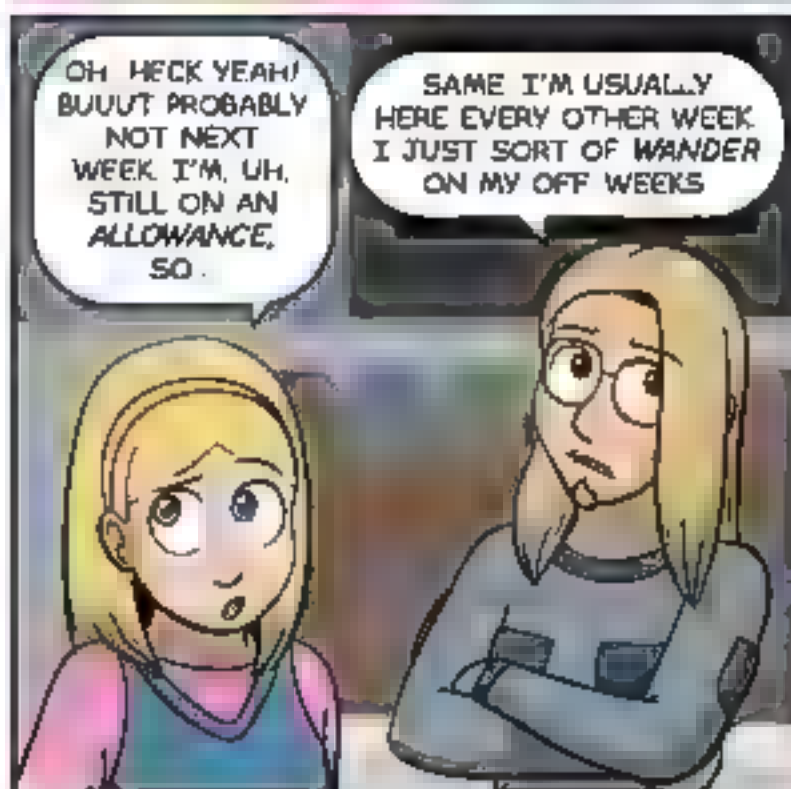
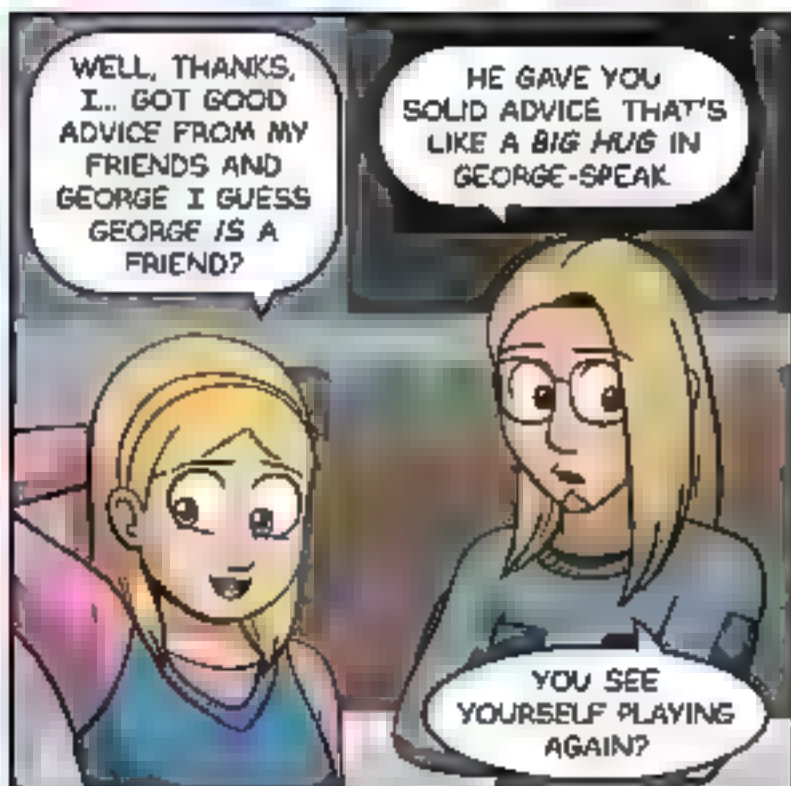
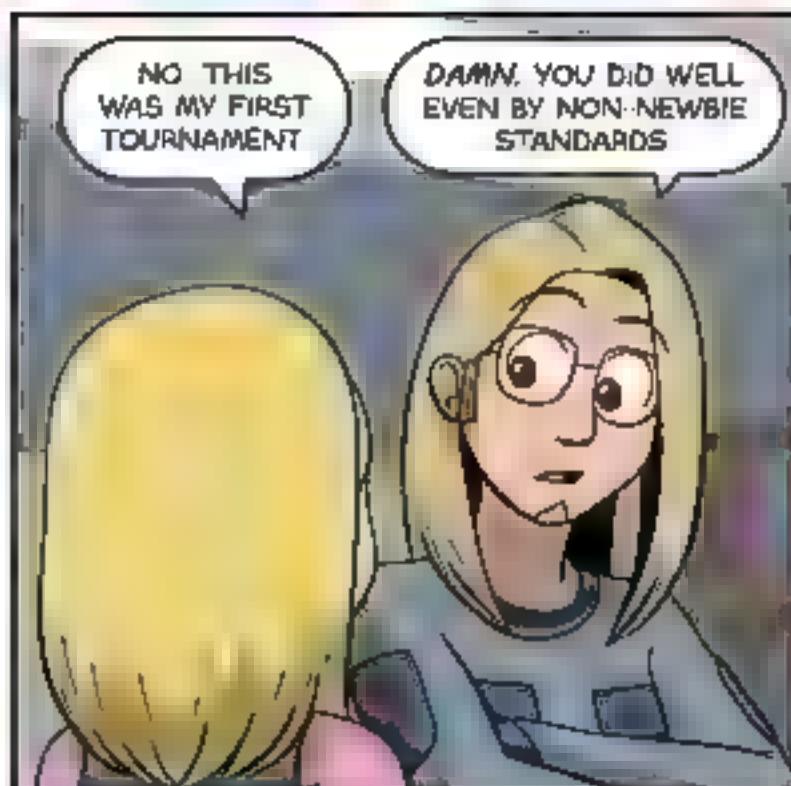
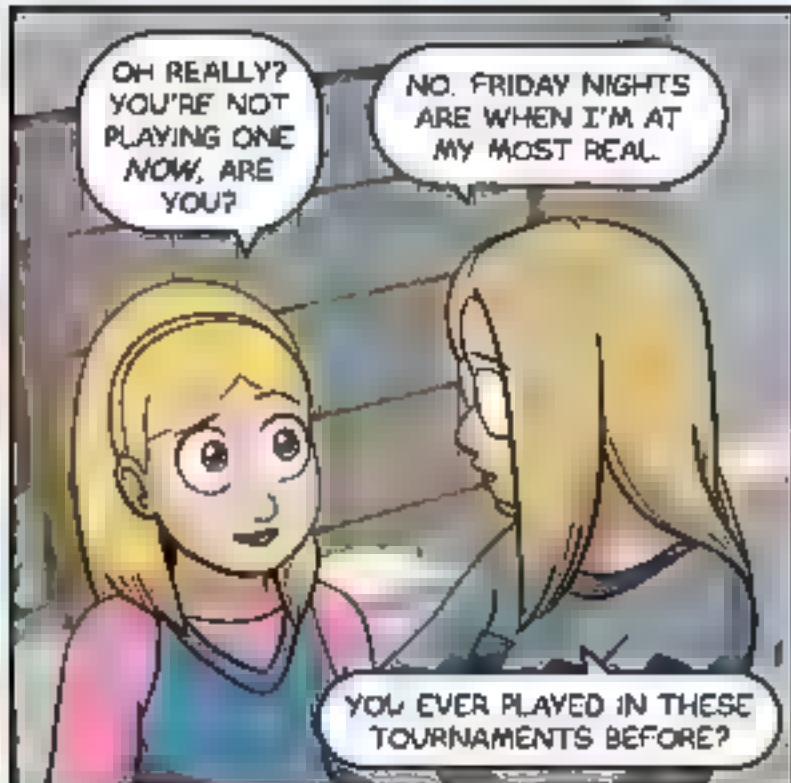
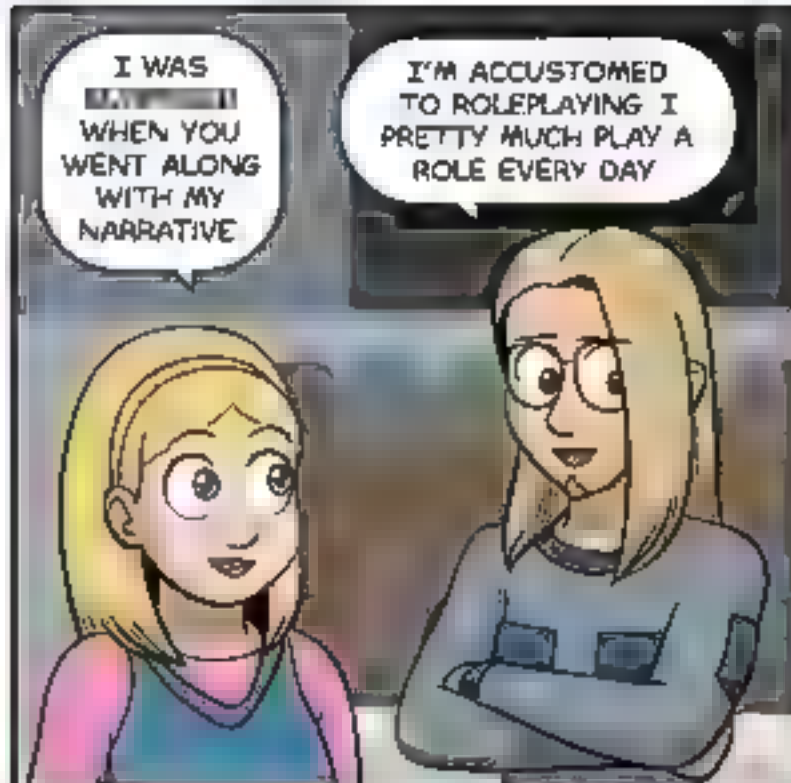
BASICALLY MAKE
THE SAME DECK?

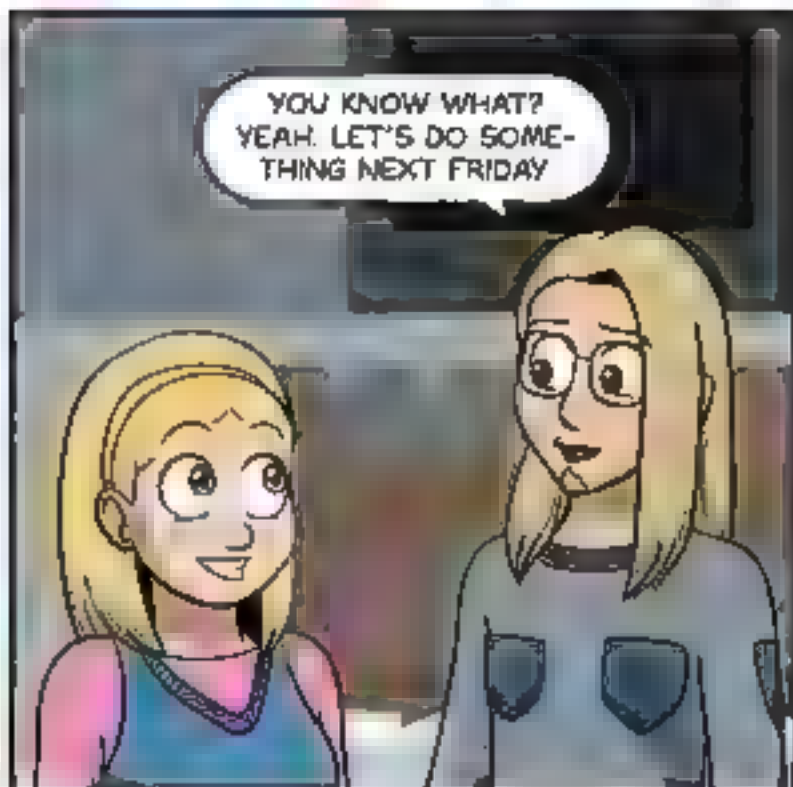
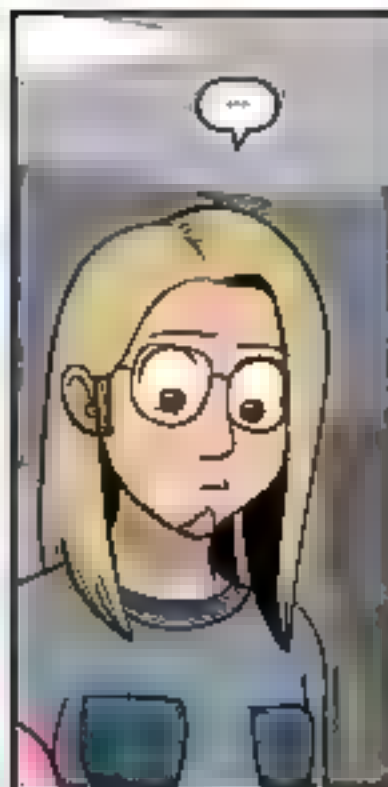
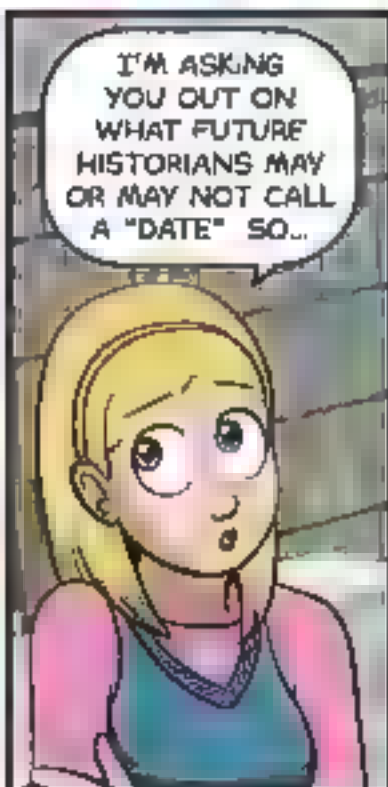
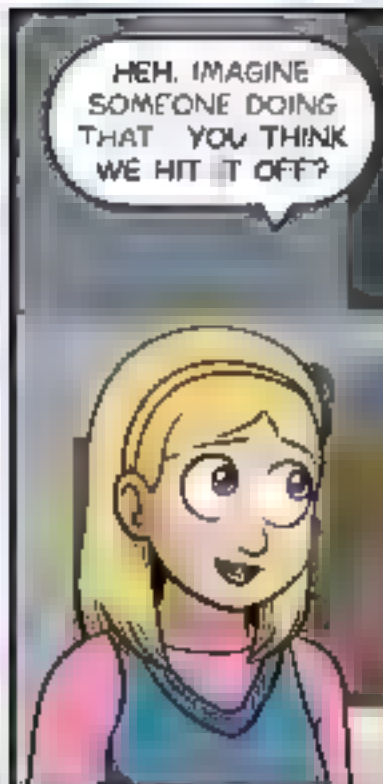
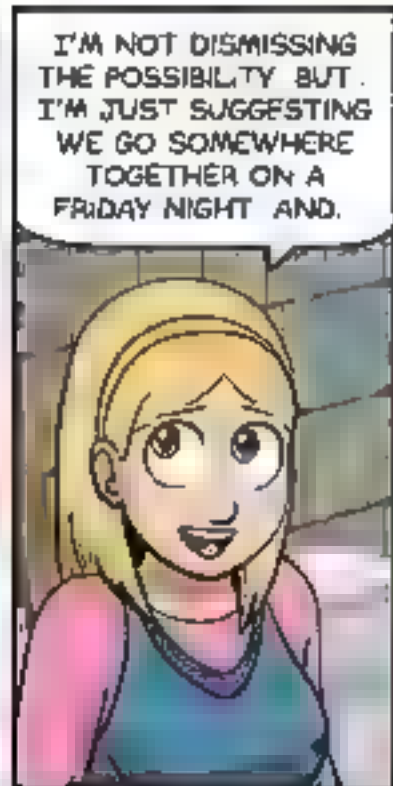
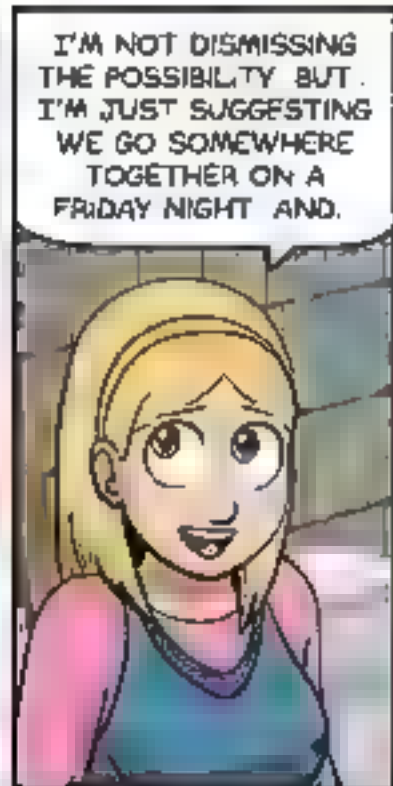
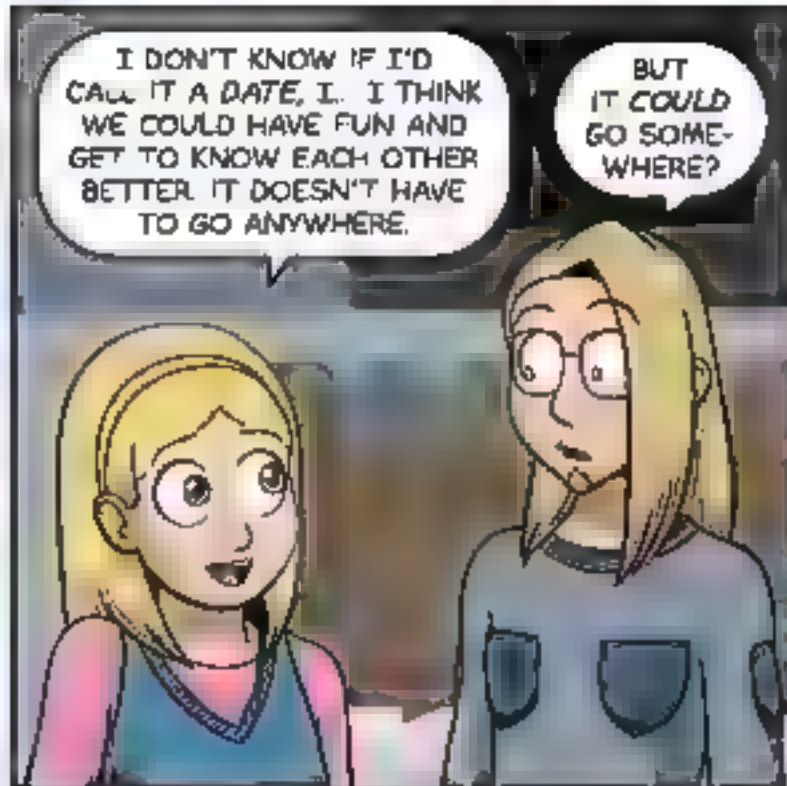
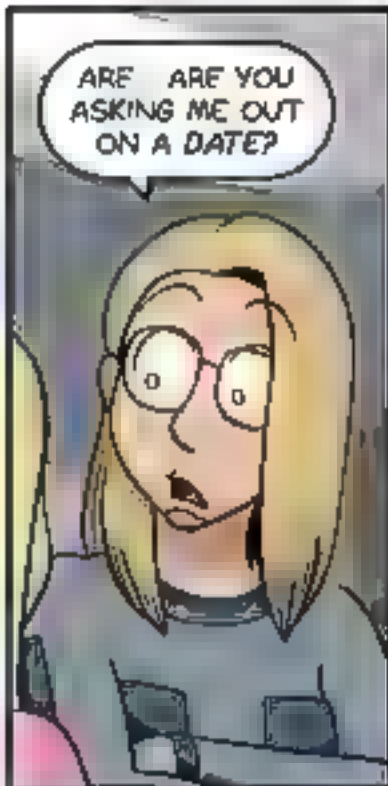
YEAH

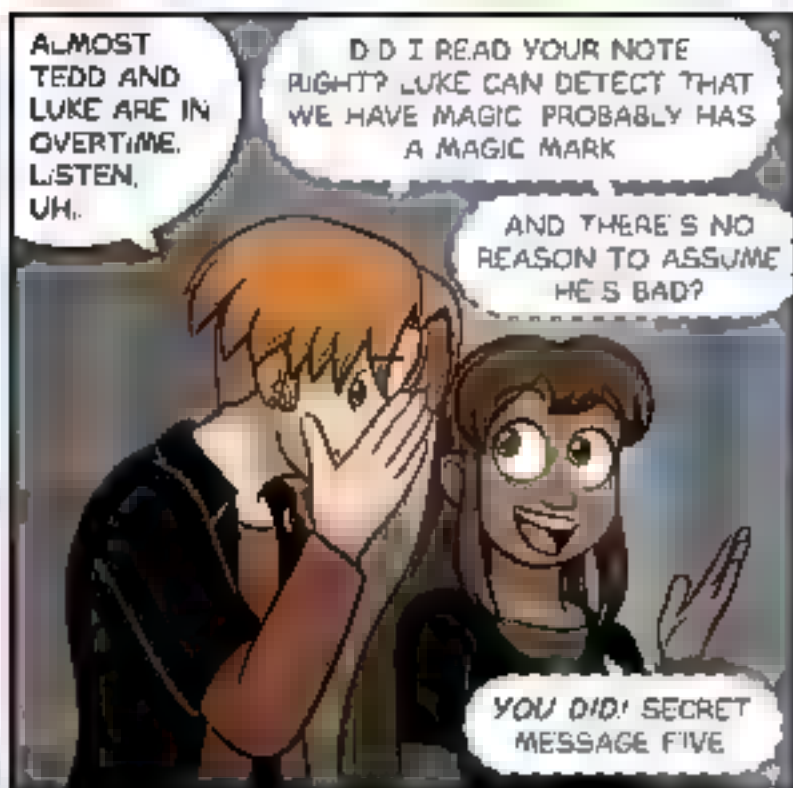
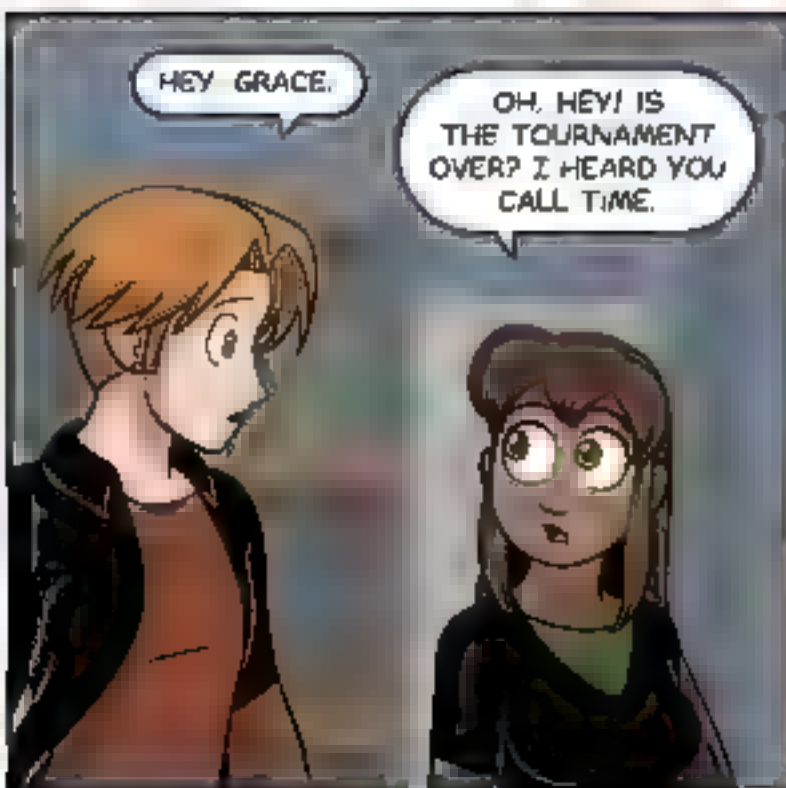
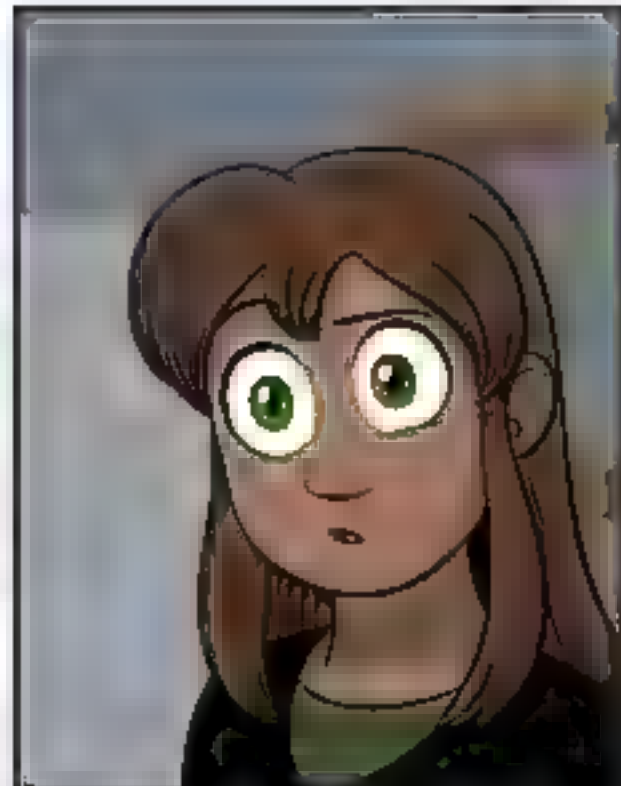


THAT IS SO
ANNOYING.









ALONE?
BUT

THE VERY FIRST
THING LUKE ASKED
ME WAS IF I WAS
THAT GUY WHO
KICKED THE FIRE
DUDE INTO A RIVER.

I'M PRETTY SURE HE CAME HERE TO SEE
ME IN THE FIRST PLACE AND ALMOST LOST
HIS NERVE AFTER SENSING YOUR POWER.

BUT WHY WOULD
THAT BE A REASON
TO SEE YOU?

IMAGINE YOU
SUDDENLY GET A
STRANGE SYMBOL
ON YOU THAT YOU
CAN'T EXPLAIN.

AND START
SEEING WHO ELSE
CAN DO MAGIC IN
A TOWN FULL OF
EXCESS MAGIC AND
SOMETHING GIVING
PEOPLE MAGIC
ABILITIES.

IF YOU KNEW OF SOMEONE WHO PROBABLY
HAD MAGIC AND WAS A CONFIRMED GOOD GUY
WOULDN'T YOU WANT TO TALK TO THEM?

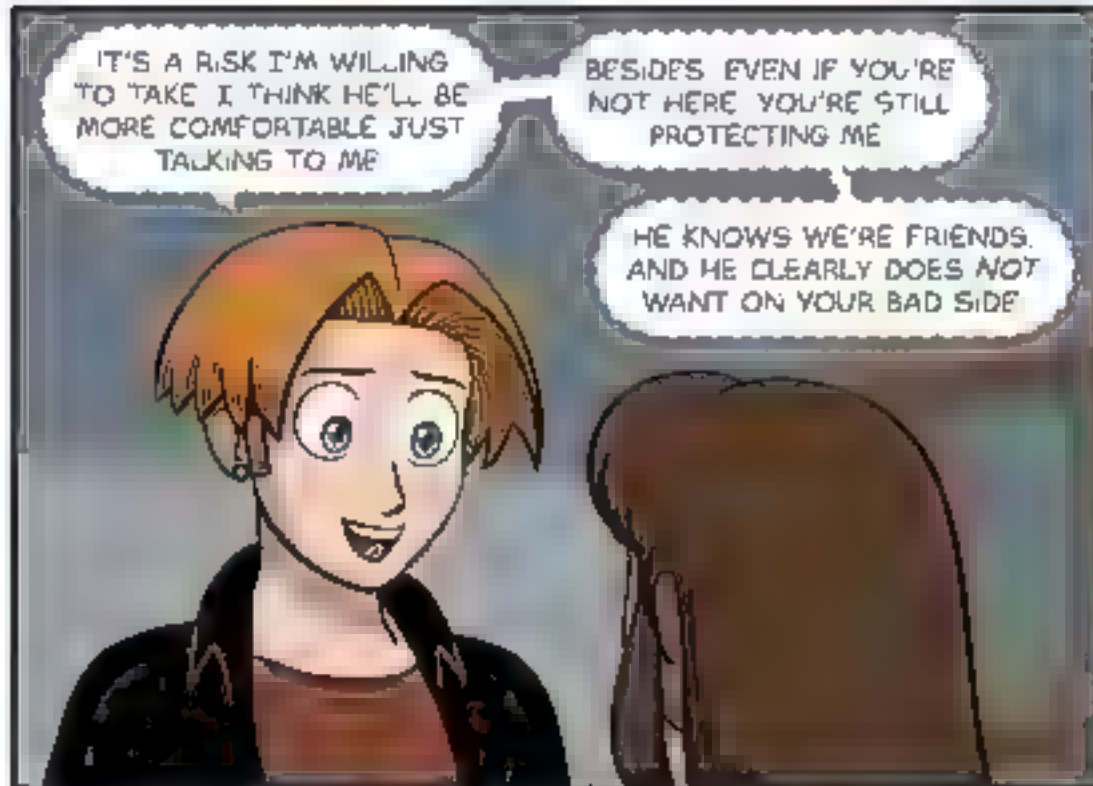
YOU'RE A
"CONFIRMED
GOOD GUY"?

I FOUGHT A FIRE
DUDE ALONGSIDE
A SUPER HERO!
GOOD GUY

JUSTIN THERE'S NO
REASON TO ASSUME
HE'S A BAD GUY BUT
THAT DOESN'T MEAN HE
ISN'T AND WE DON'T
KNOW THAT HE HAS A
MARK OR IF SENSING IS
HIS ONLY ABILITY!

I'M NOT TOO WORRIED ABOUT HIM BEING
DANGEROUS. HE'S WAY TOO SKITTISH TO MAKE
ME THINK HE'S GOT A SUCKER PUNCH READY

I'M SKITTISH!
TOUCHÉ



IT'S A RISK I'M WILLING TO TAKE I THINK HE'LL BE MORE COMFORTABLE JUST TALKING TO ME

BESIDES EVEN IF YOU'RE NOT HERE YOU'RE STILL PROTECTING ME

HE KNOWS WE'RE FRIENDS AND HE CLEARLY DOES NOT WANT ON YOUR BAD SIDE



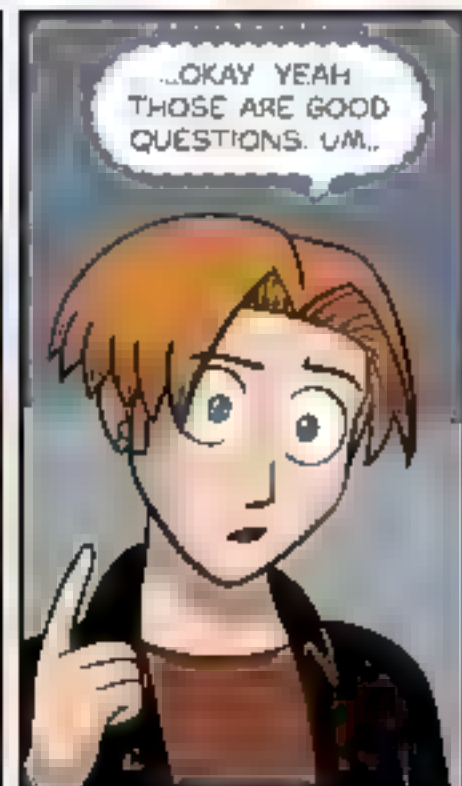
BUT SARAH, TEDD AND I TALKED ABOUT TALKING TO HIM BUT WE HADN'T ACTUALLY DECIDED WHETHER...



YOU WERE THINKING OF NOT TALKING TO HIM? THE POOR GUY *ALREADY KNOWS* WHO HAS MAGIC AND HE'S PROBABLY IN THE DARK BEYOND THAT HE NEEDS ANSWERS.



OKAY BUT HOW MANY ANSWERS? ARE YOU PLANNING TO TELL HIM ALL ABOUT HOW MAGIC WORKS? HOW HE MIGHT AWAKEN MORE POWER? WHAT I AM? HOW YOU *KNOW* ALL THIS?



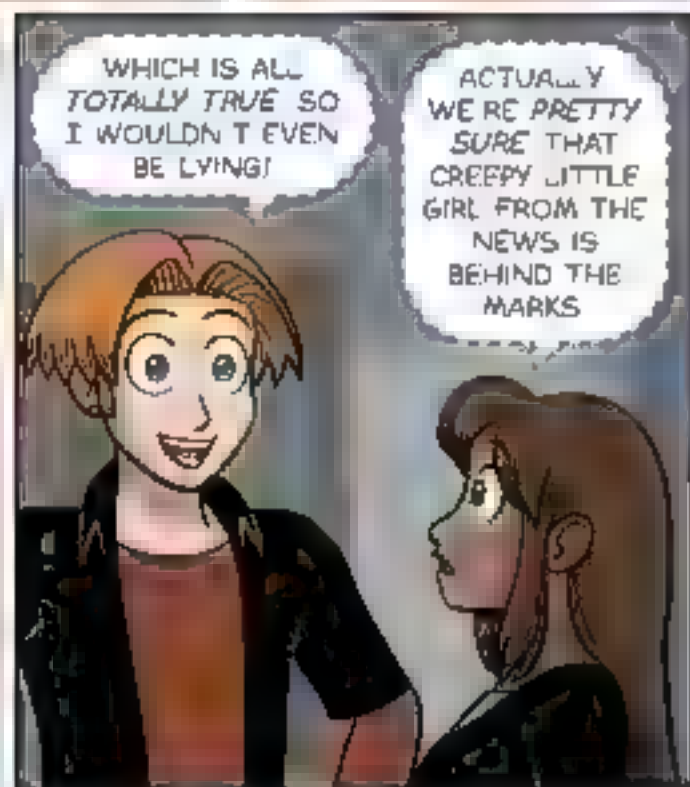
...OKAY YEAH THOSE ARE GOOD QUESTIONS. UH...



I'LL SAY I CAN'T REVEAL MY SOURCE BECAUSE I WOULD BETRAY A TRUST

AND I'LL STICK TO MAGIC MARKS AND THAT SOME PEOPLE HAVE DIFFERENT KINDS OF MAGIC *WITHOUT* ELABORATION, AND UH...

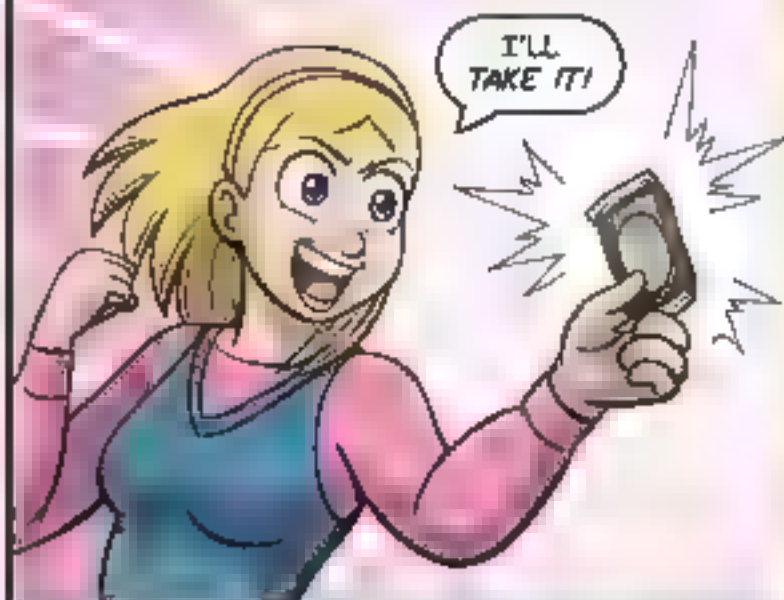
THAT WE DON'T KNOW WHERE THE MARKS ARE COMING FROM.



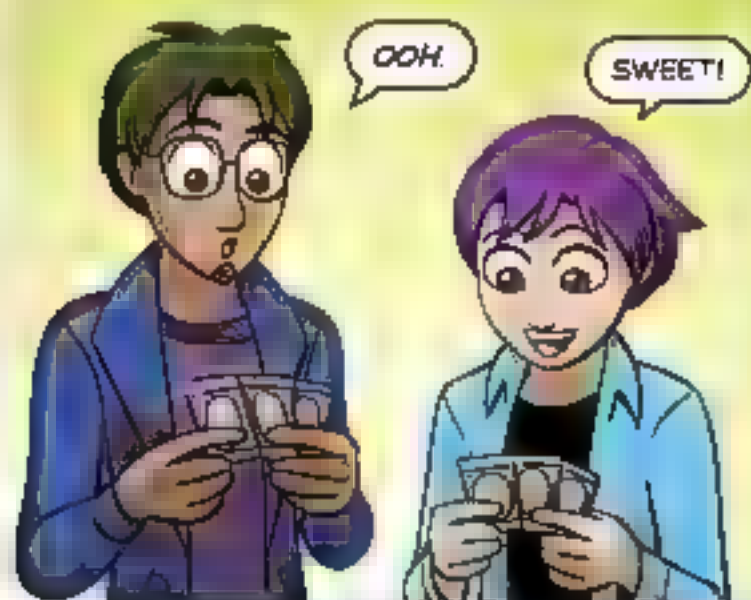
WHICH IS ALL *TOTALLY TRUE* SO I WOULDN'T EVEN BE LYING!

ACTUALLY WE'RE *PRETTY SURE* THAT CREEPY LITTLE GIRL FROM THE NEWS IS BEHIND THE MARKS

**4TH PLACE WINNERS RECEIVE
ONE PACK OF CARDS!**



**3RD PLACE WINNERS RECEIVE
THREE PACKS OF CARDS!**

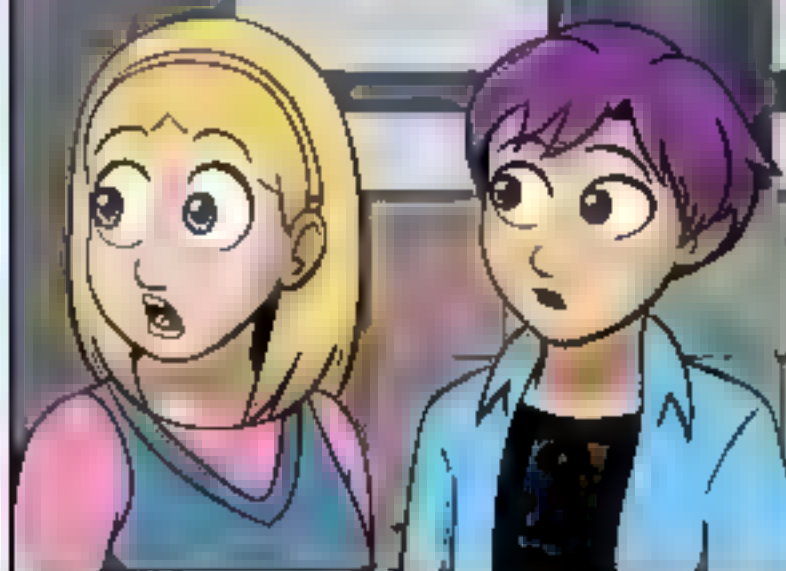


**2ND PLACE WINS FIVE
PACKS OF CARDS!**



WAIT GEORGE
GOT SECOND
PLACE?

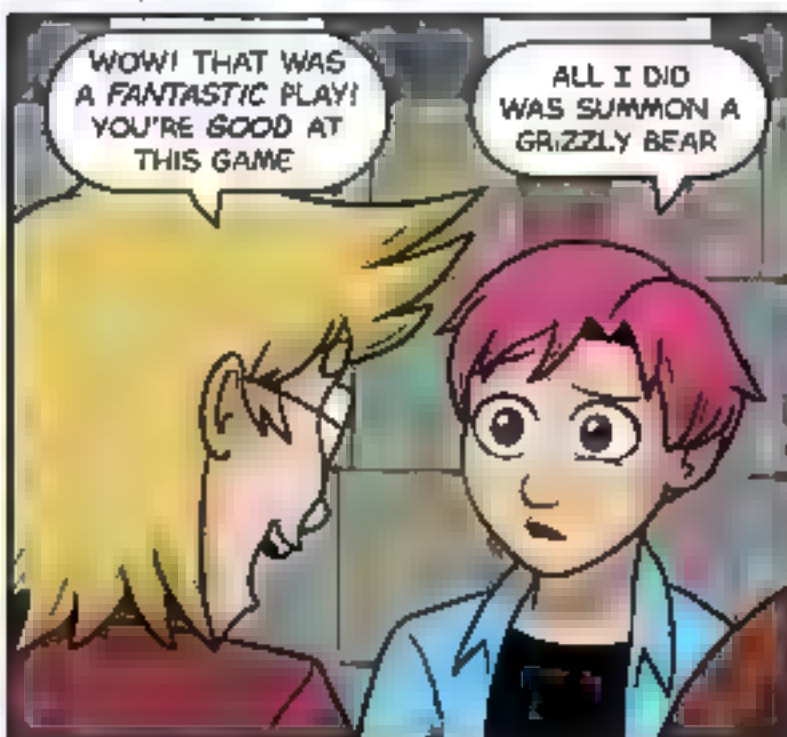
HUH. THEN WHO.



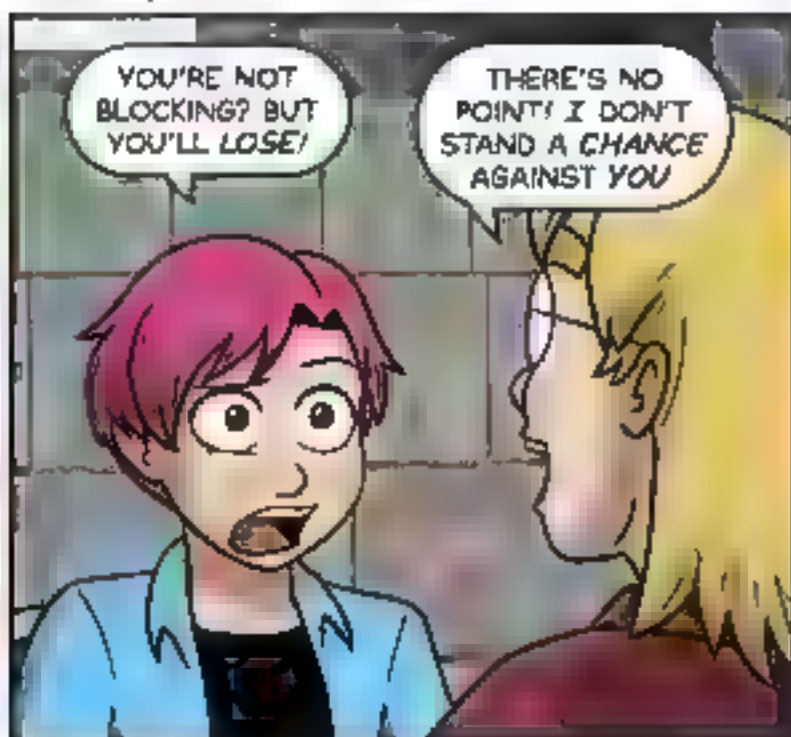
**GRAND PRIZE WINNER
Some Guy**



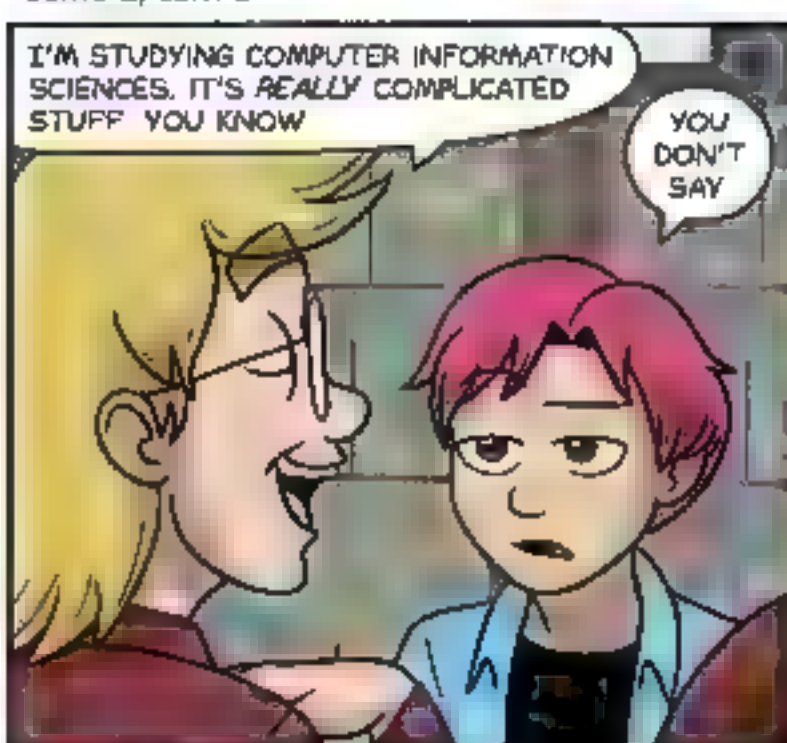
Game 1, turn 2



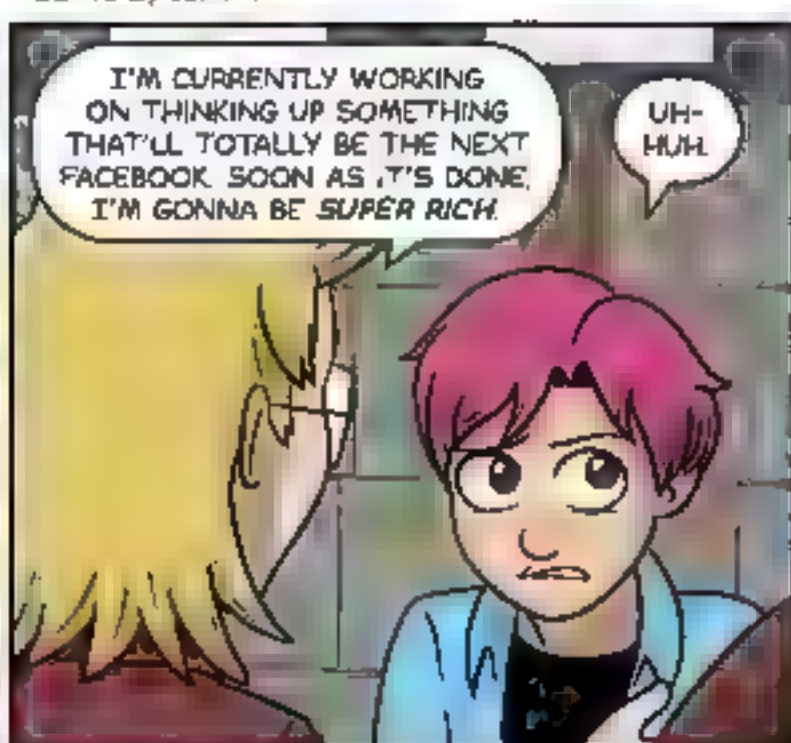
Game 1, turn 10



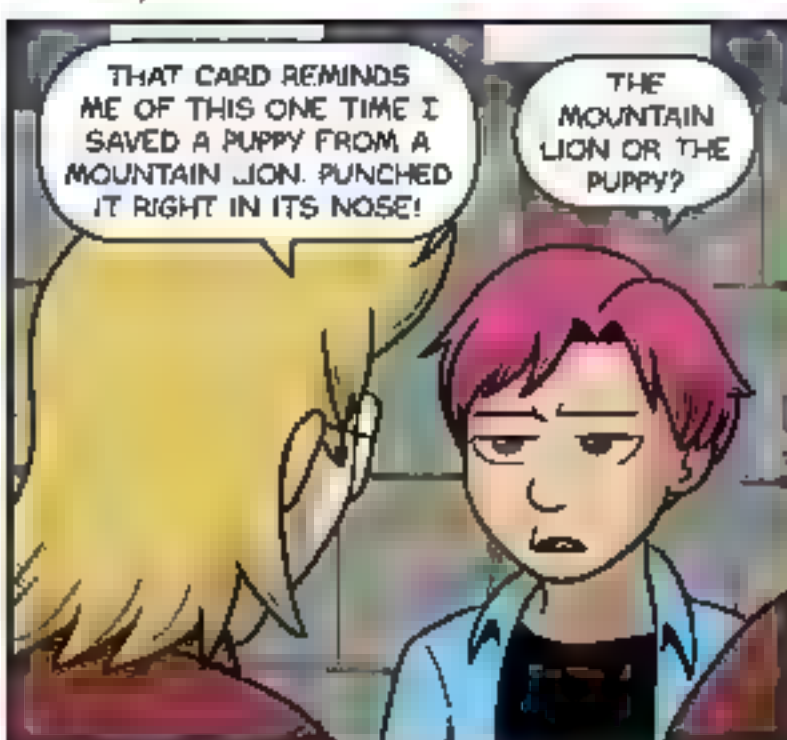
Game 2, turn 2



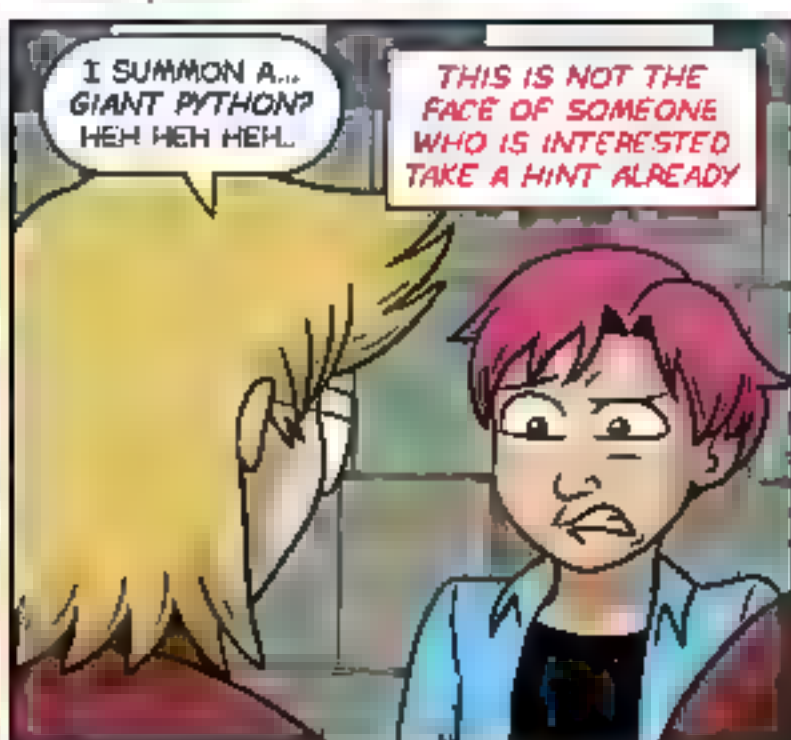
Game 2, turn 4

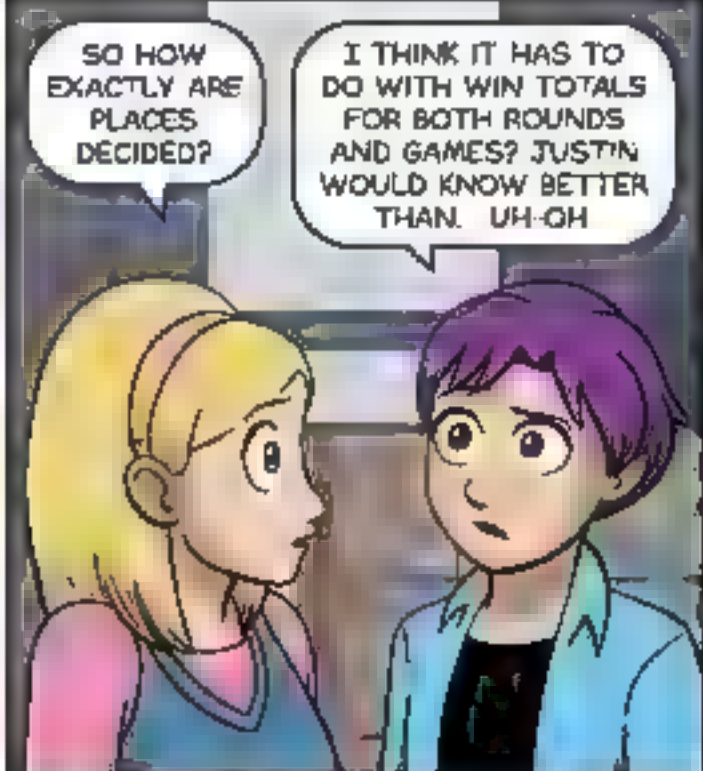


Game 2, turn 7



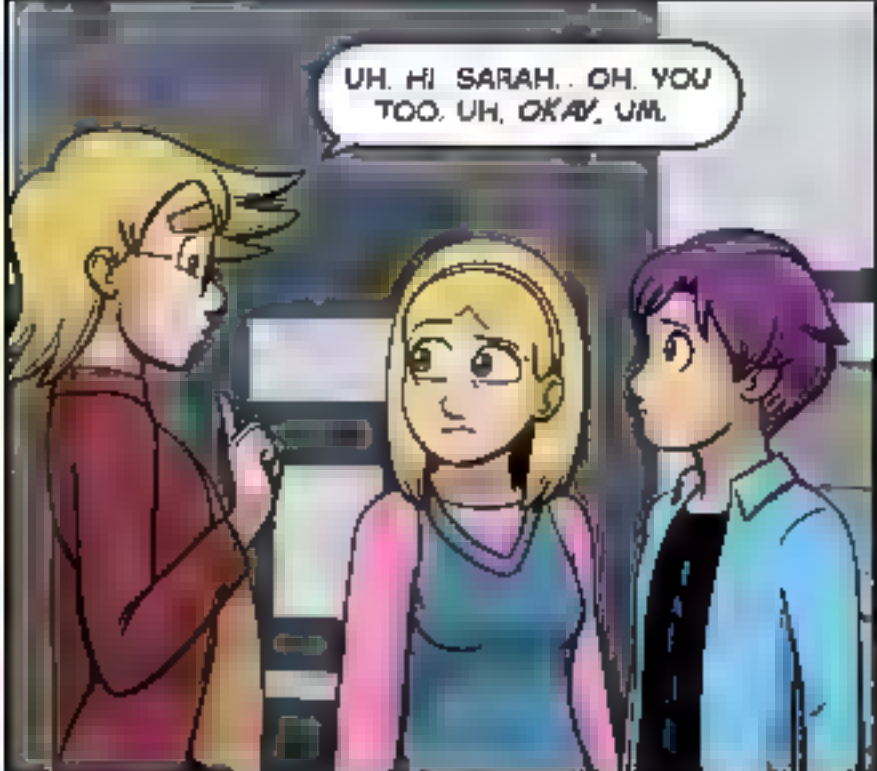
Game 2, turn 8



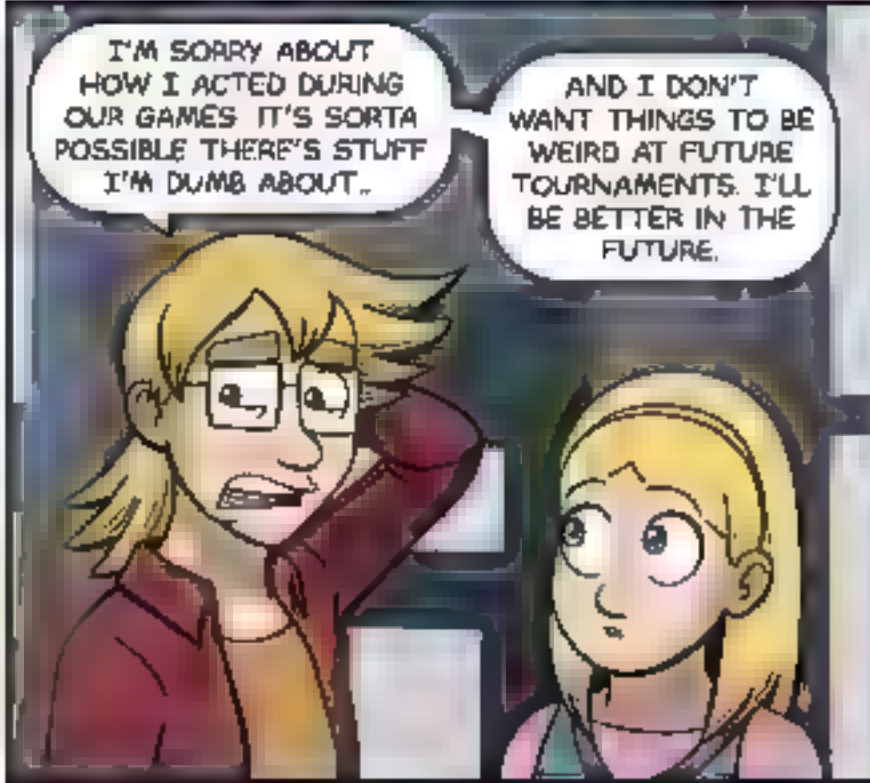


SO HOW EXACTLY ARE PLACES DECIDED?

I THINK IT HAS TO DO WITH WIN TOTALS FOR BOTH ROUNDS AND GAMES? JUSTIN WOULD KNOW BETTER THAN. UH-OH

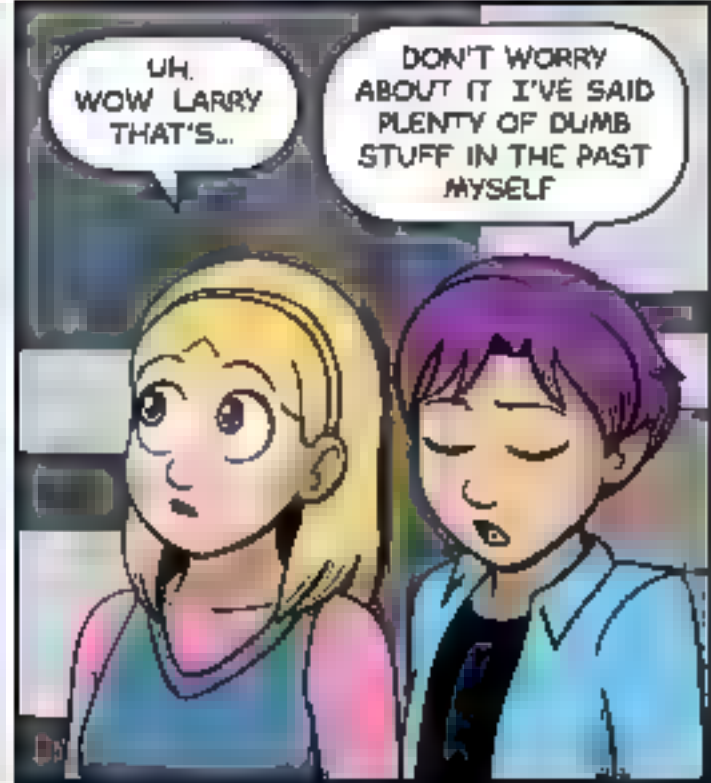


UH. HI SARAH. OH. YOU TOO. UH, OKAY, UM.




I'M SORRY ABOUT HOW I ACTED DURING OUR GAMES. IT'S SORTA POSSIBLE THERE'S STUFF I'M DUMB ABOUT..

AND I DON'T WANT THINGS TO BE WEIRD AT FUTURE TOURNAMENTS. I'LL BE BETTER IN THE FUTURE.



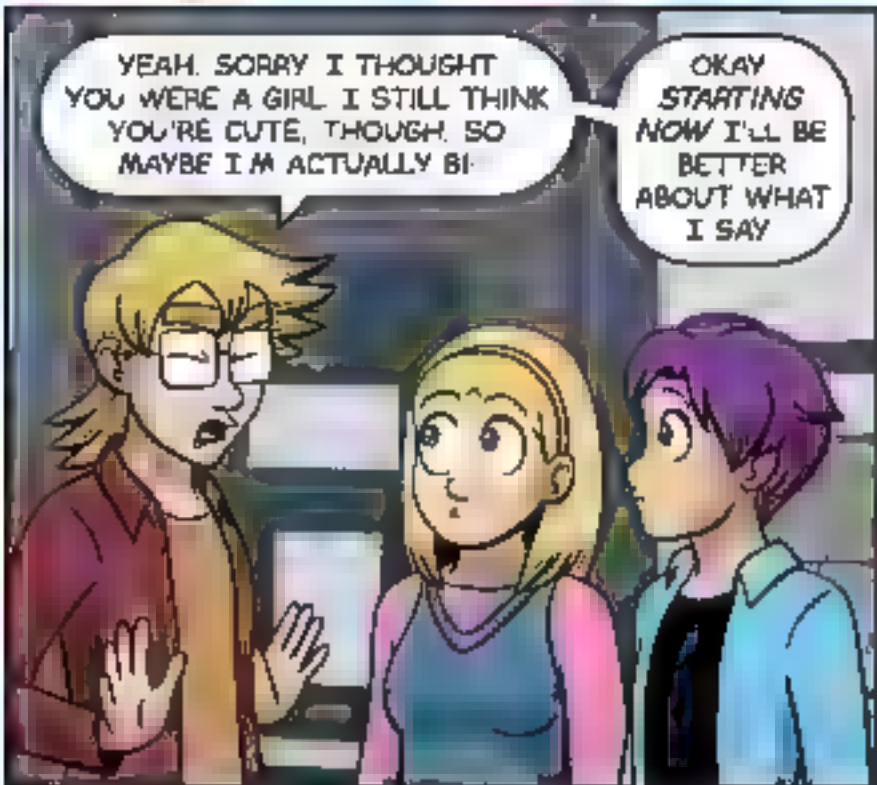
UH. WOW LARRY THAT'S...

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT I'VE SAID PLENTY OF DUMB STUFF IN THE PAST MYSELF



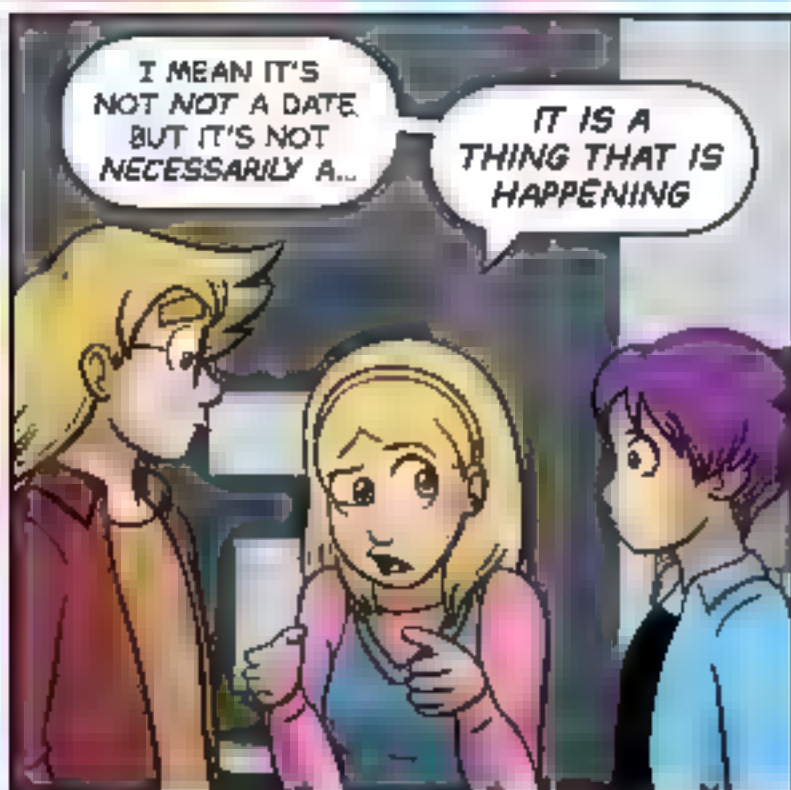
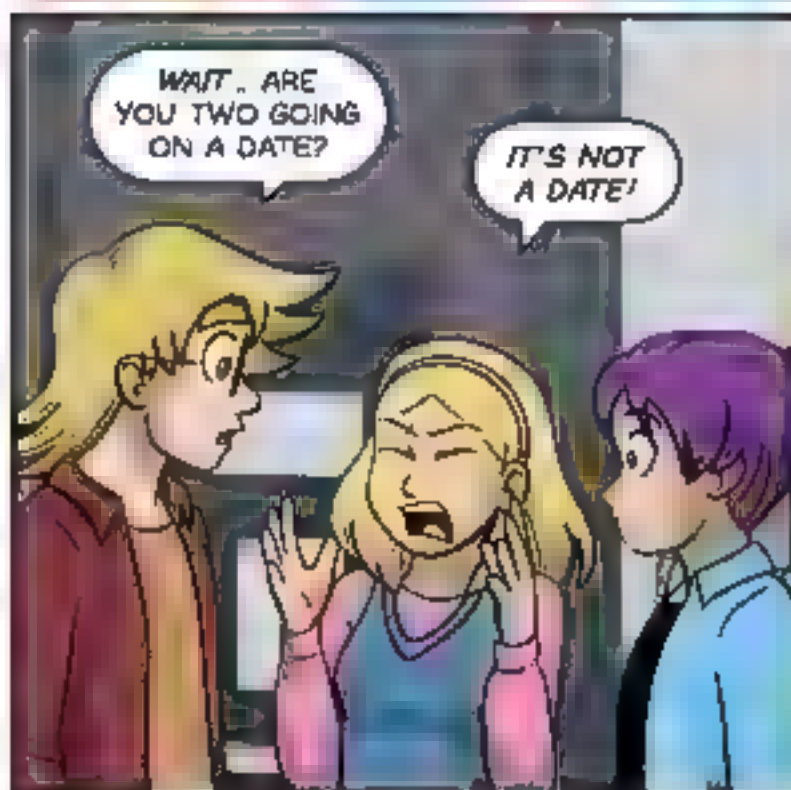
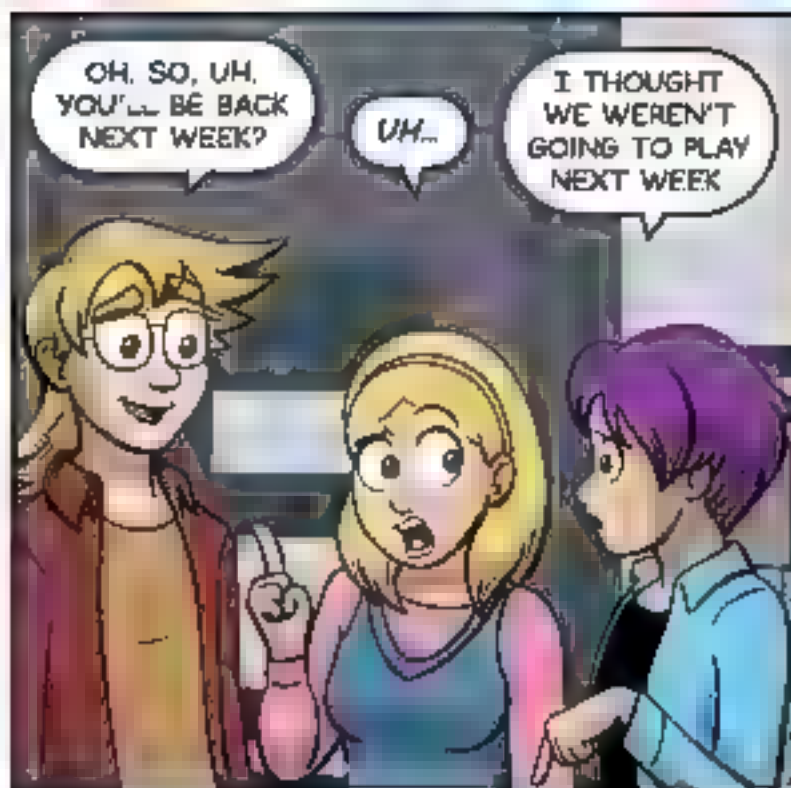
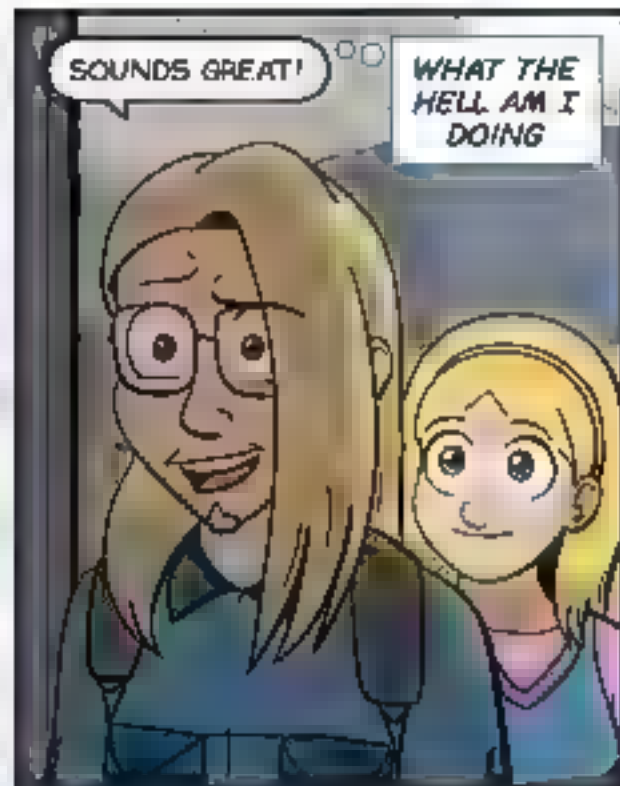
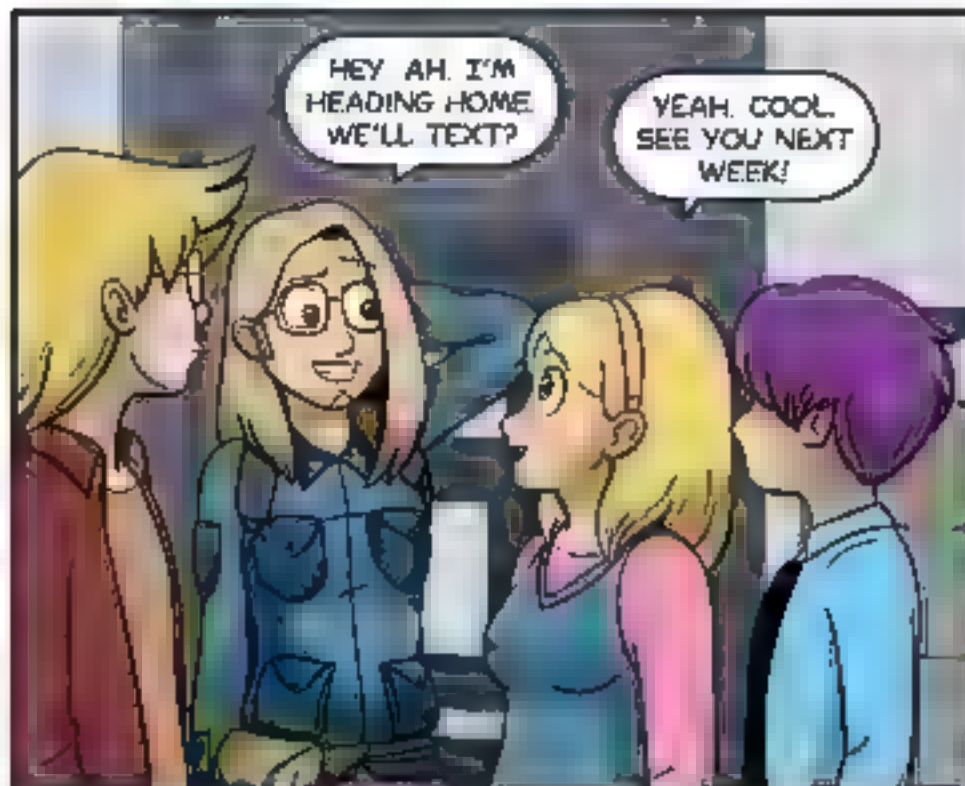
WAIT... HE HIT ON YOU, TOO?

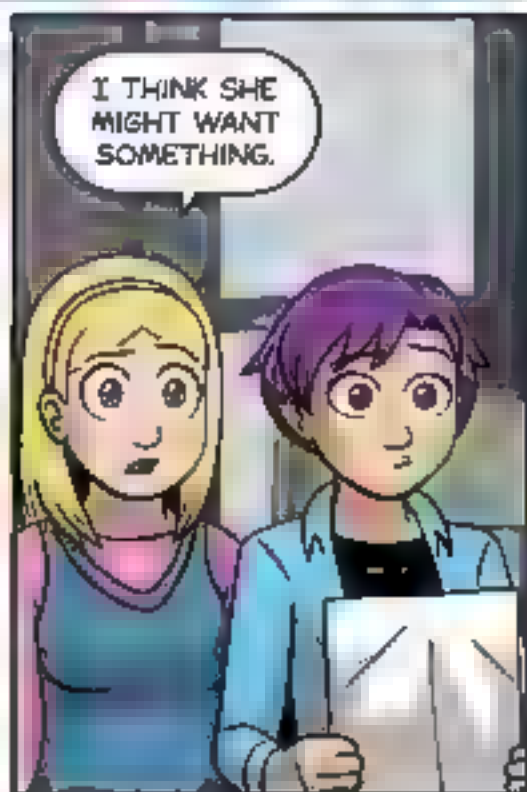
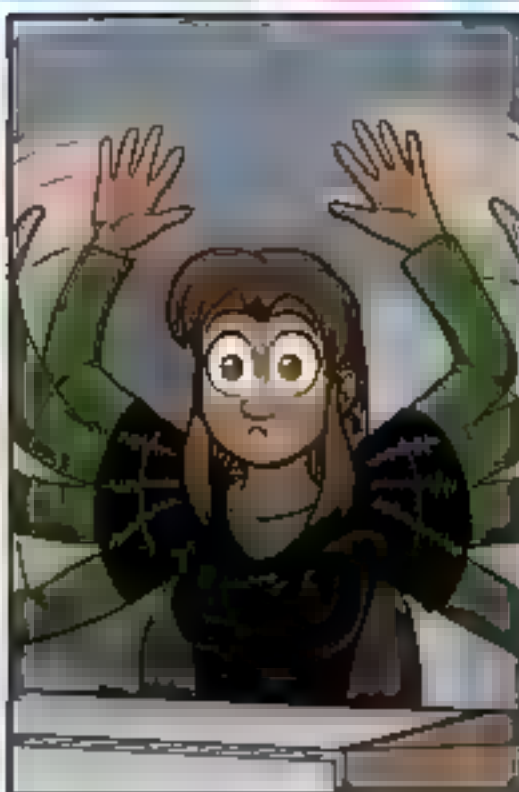
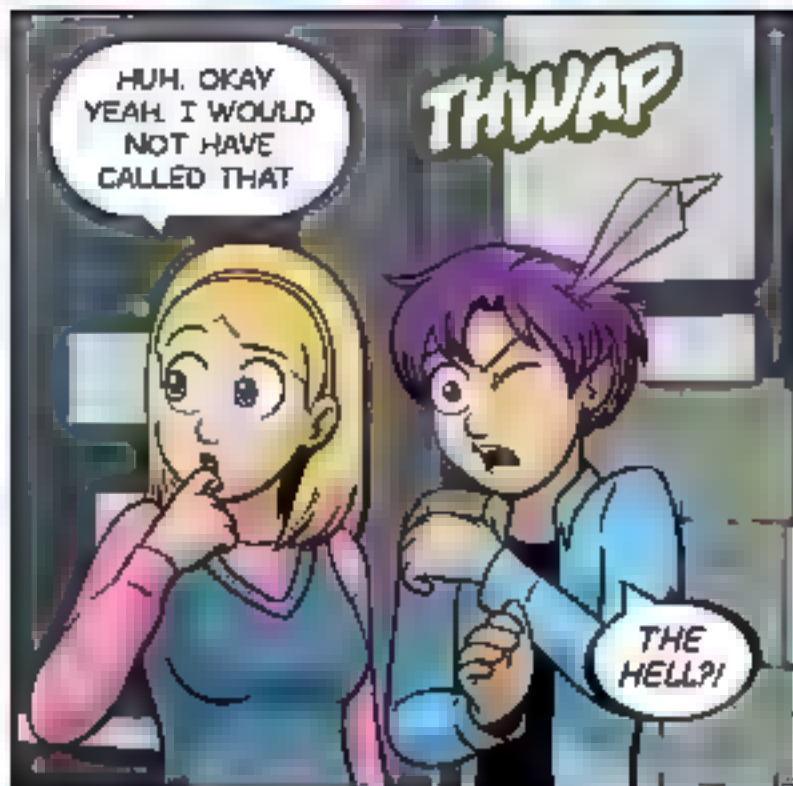
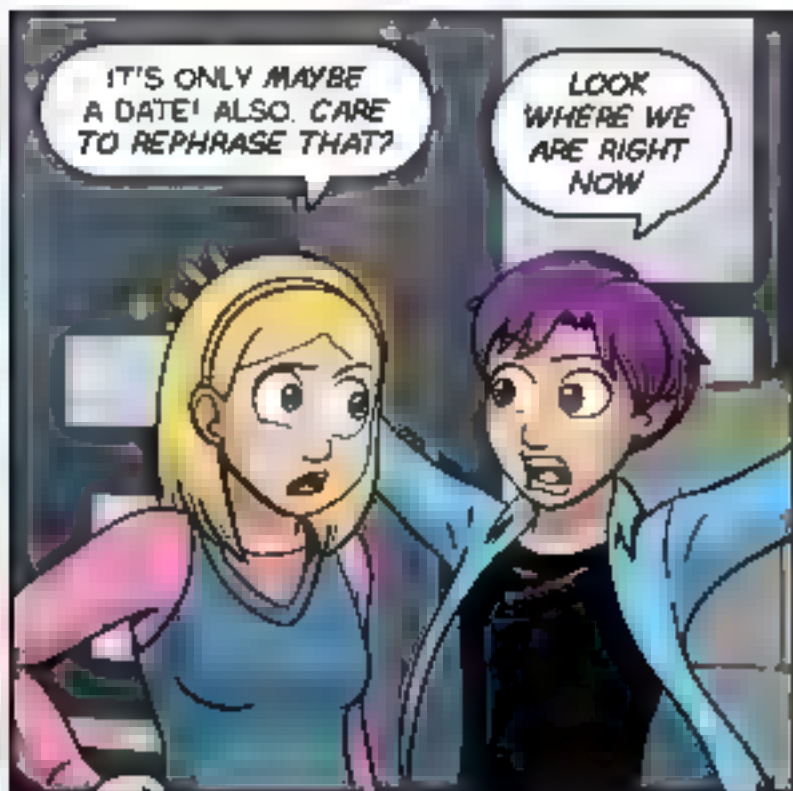
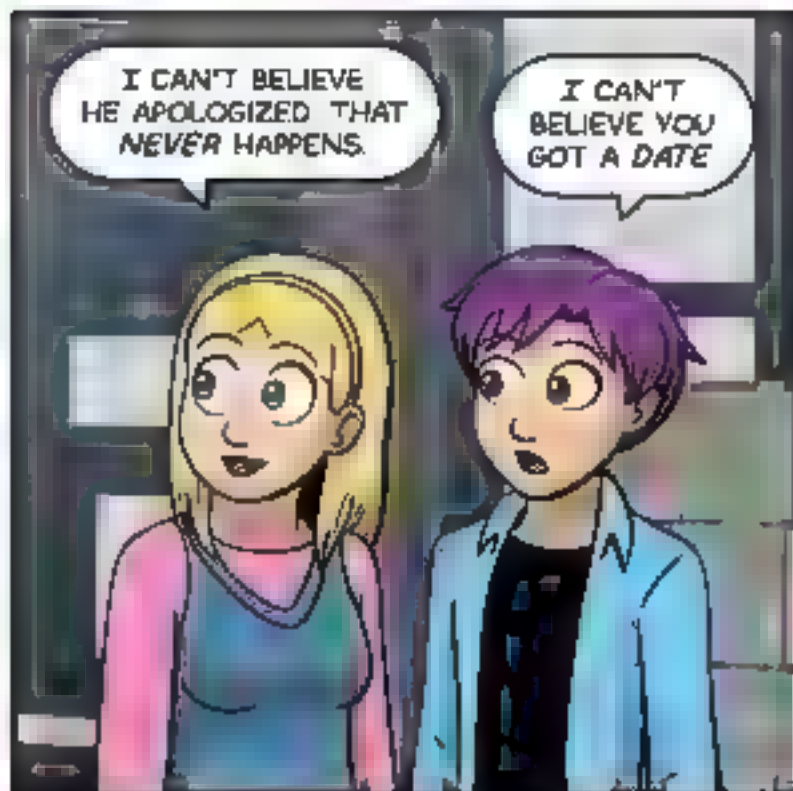
WELL..



YEAH. SORRY I THOUGHT YOU WERE A GIRL. I STILL THINK YOU'RE CUTE, THOUGH. SO MAYBE I AM ACTUALLY BI-

OKAY STARTING NOW I'LL BE BETTER ABOUT WHAT I SAY





THAT SURE
IS SOME PURPLE
HAIR ON PINK-
HAired GUY

AND, OF COURSE MY
RATIONAL ARGUMENT
FOR WHY THAT DOESN'T
MAKE HIM AN ALIEN IS
"IT COULD BE MAGIC"

CARD GAMES. FOCUS ON CARD
GAMES IT'D BE STUPID TO RISK
SEEING THAT FLASH AGAIN JUST
NOW, AND THERE'S NO WAY TO
KNOW IF HE'S AN ALIEN.

OR HOW STUPID
THE THOUGHT "HE'S
AN ALIEN" IS.

I GUESS I'M NOT
EVEN SURE HE'S A
"HE" THAT GUY SAID
PINK HAired GUY
WAS A GIRL EARLIER.

THAT BLUE-HAired
GUY DOESN'T SEEM
THAT BRIGHT, BUT IF
MAGIC CAN CHANGE
HAIR, WHY NOT SEX?

BUT WHY WOULD
PURPLE HAired
PINK HAired GUY
CHANGE SEXES IN
THE MIDDLE OF A
COMIC SHOP
DURING A CARD
TOURNAMENT?

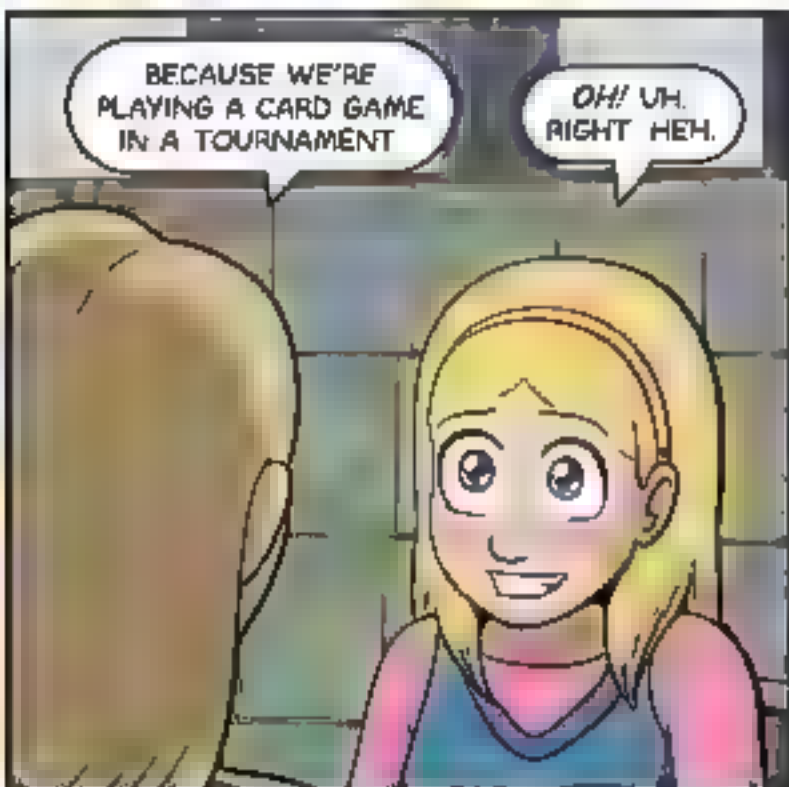
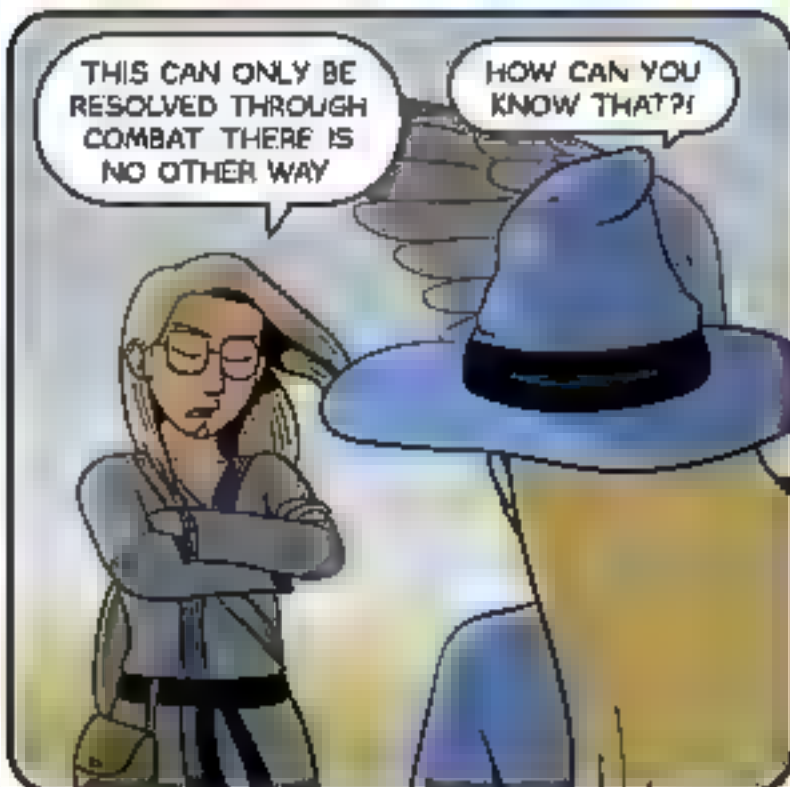
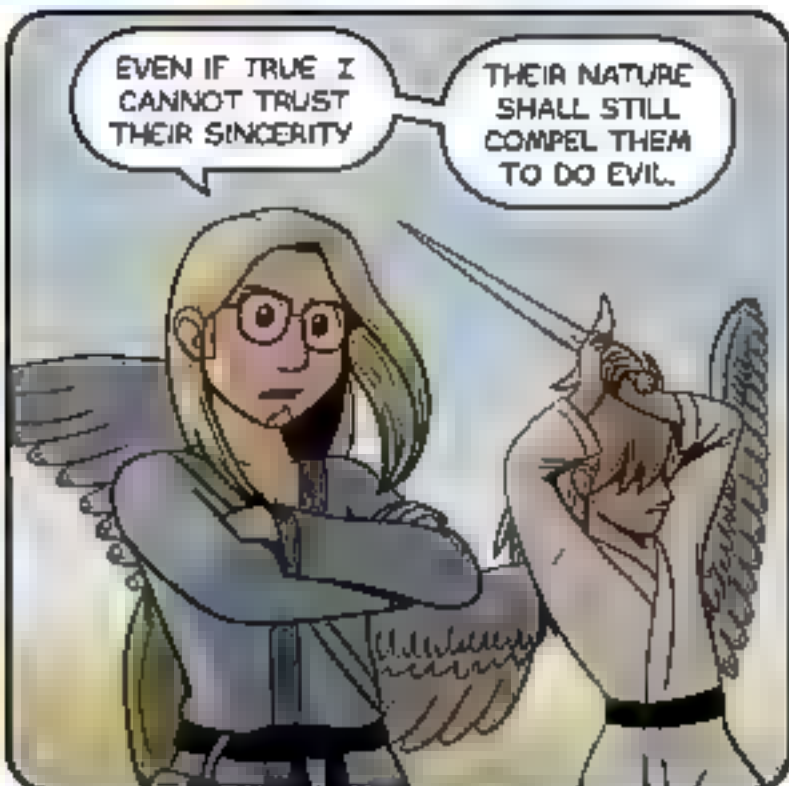
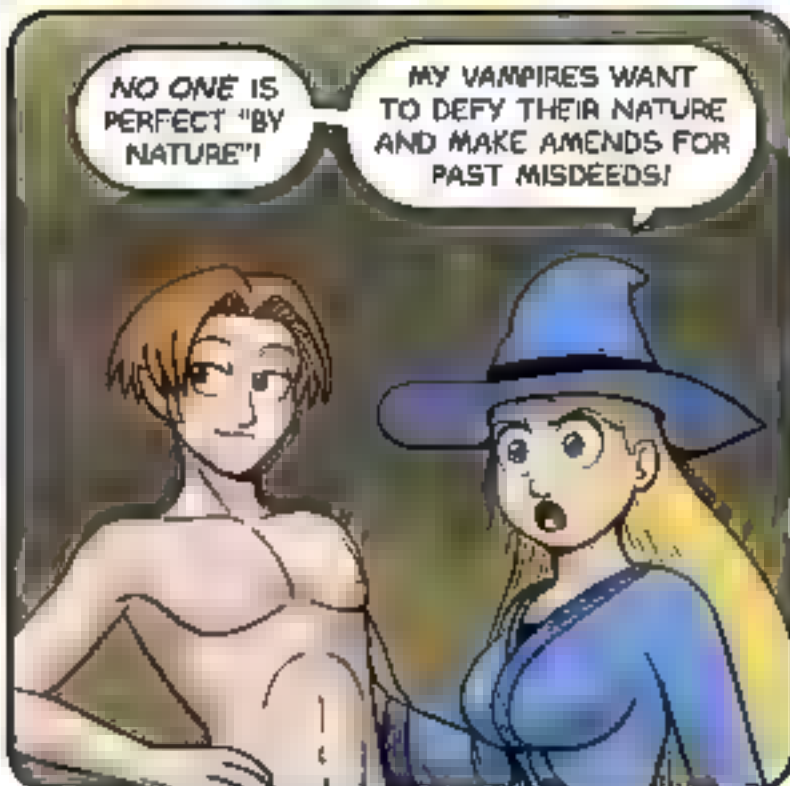
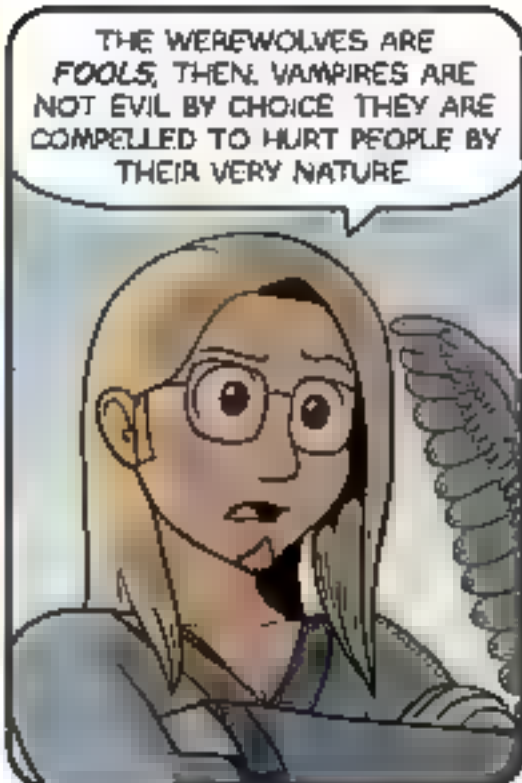
DID HE NOT
MEAN TO
CHANGE? IS HE
NORMALLY A
SHE? WHAT
MOTIVATION
COULD THERE
BE?

HELLO,
JUSTIN.
I HAVE
BOUNCY
BOOBS!

THAT... THAT'S
A THING STRAIGHT
GUYS LIKE, RIGHT?
BOUNCING? THAT'S
THE APPEAL?

IT'S PROBABLY NOT HEALTHY
TO FANTASIZE ABOUT CHANGING
MYSELF IN A WAY I WOULDN'T
LIKE TO SEDUCE STRAIGHT MEN.

BEATS WONDERING
IF THIS GUY'S AN
ALIEN. AT LEAST



FRANKLY NO, I
DON'T KNOW THAT

PLENTY OF PEOPLE
WHO USE "GAY" AS AN
INSULT REALLY DO
HAVE A PROBLEM WITH
GAY PEOPLE

UH.. SOME PEOPLE, SURE.
BUT FOR OTHER PEOPLE
IT'S JUST SOMETHING
THEY SAY, RIGHT? IT'S
JUST AN EXPRESSION?

PEOPLE PICK UP EXPRESSIONS FROM OTHER PEOPLE,
AND I'M SURE PLENTY OF PEOPLE DON'T MEAN TO
INSULT GAY PEOPLE, BUT THEY'RE DOING SO ANYWAY

WOULD
YOU LIKE IT
IF PEOPLE
SAID "THAT'S
LARRY" AND
ASSOCIATED
"LARRY" WITH
BAD THINGS?

UH NO.
I.. YEAH, THAT
WOULD SUCK

WOW. SAYING
GAY TO SAY STUFF
IS BAD IS GAY

I MEAN, UH... SORRY!
IT'S A BAD HABIT I'LL
WORK ON IT.

FANTASTIC.

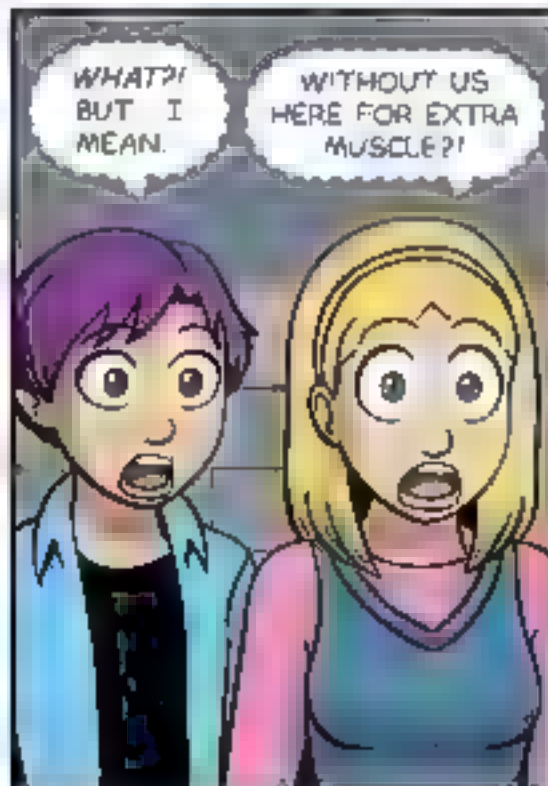
DID... DID I JUST
FAINTLY OVERHEAR
JUSTIN SAY HE'S..?

UM. DUDE? I FROZE
YOUR DIRE PENGUIN.
NOT YOU.



WHAT'S
WITH THE
AERIAL
ASSAULT?

JUSTIN'S
PLANNING TO
TALK TO LUKE
ABOUT MAGIC'
ALONE!

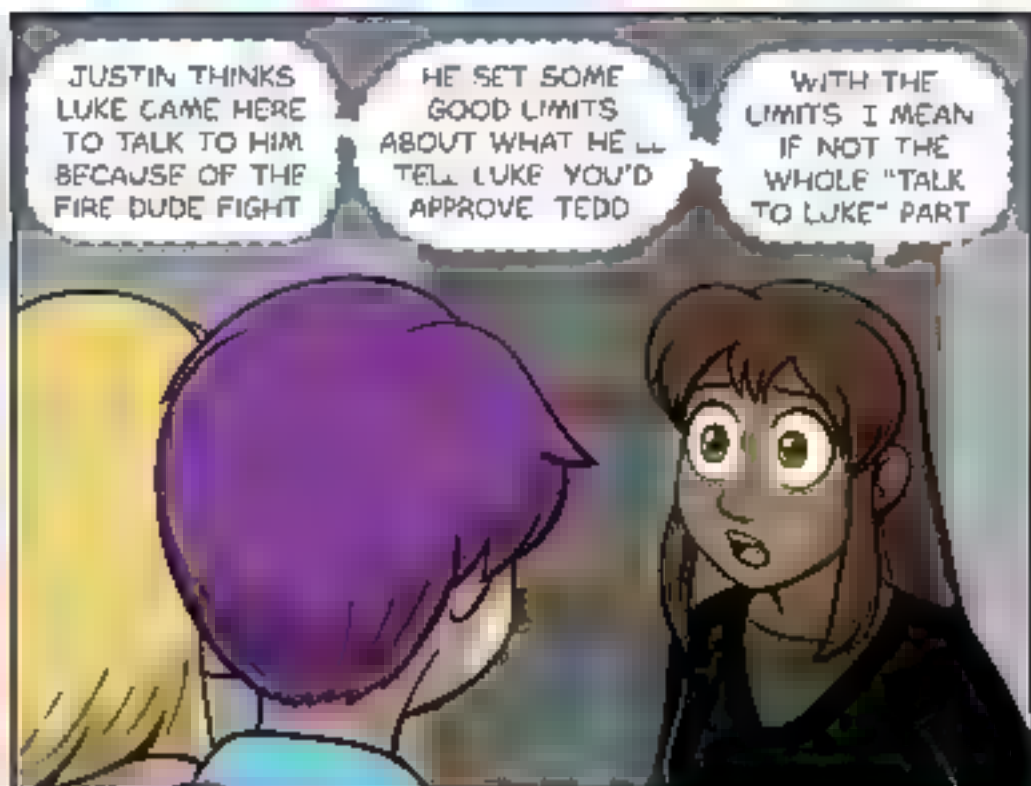


WHAT?
BUT I
MEAN.

WITHOUT US
HERE FOR EXTRA
MUSCLE?!



WITHOUT YOU
HERE FOR EXTRA
MUSCLE



JUSTIN THINKS
LUKE CAME HERE
TO TALK TO HIM
BECAUSE OF THE
FIRE DUDE FIGHT

HE SET SOME
GOOD LIMITS
ABOUT WHAT HE'LL
TELL LUKE YOU'D
APPROVE TEDD

WITH THE
LIMITS I MEAN
IF NOT THE
WHOLE "TALK
TO LUKE" PART



I TRUST YOUR JUDGEMENT
ON THAT BUT I DUNNO.
THIS MAYBE WE SHOULD
TRY TO STOP HIM?

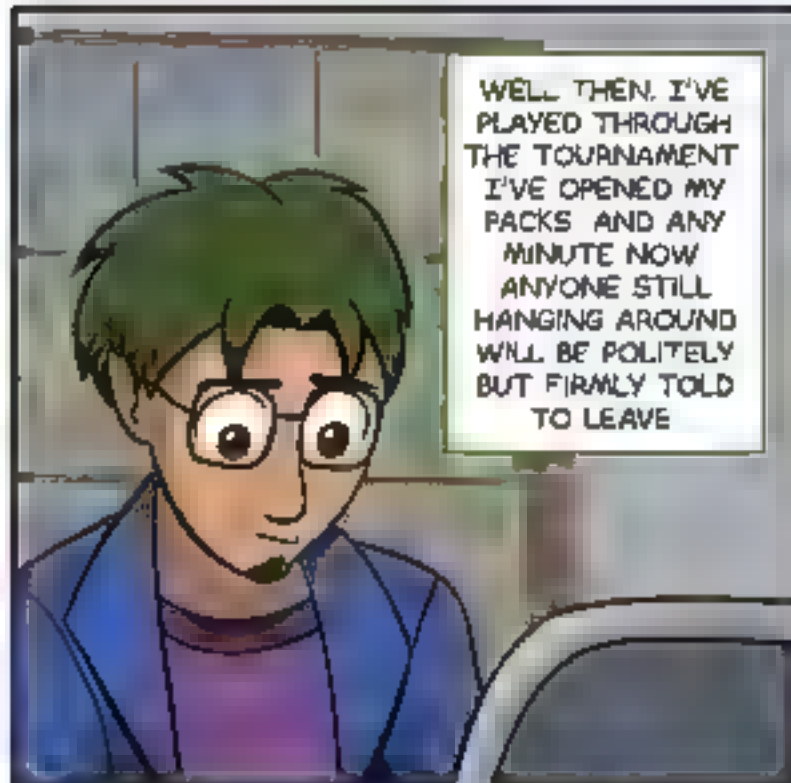


I THINK IT'S TOO
LATE FOR THAT HE MUST
HAVE EXTENDED THE
INVITATION BY NOW

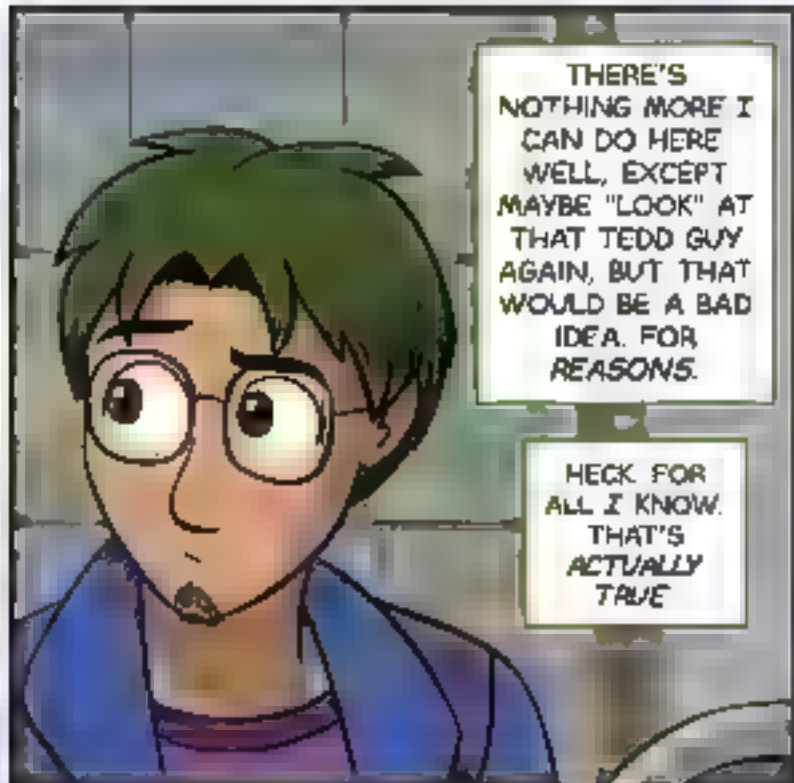


"YOU'VE GOT MAGIC ON YOU"
NO... "YOU EVER READ HARRY
POTTER?" NO "CAN YOU
TAKE OFF YOUR SHIRT?" YES.

NO



WELL THEN. I'VE
PLAYED THROUGH
THE TOURNAMENT
I'VE OPENED MY
PACKS AND ANY
MINUTE NOW
ANYONE STILL
HANGING AROUND
WILL BE POLITELY
BUT FIRMLY TOLD
TO LEAVE



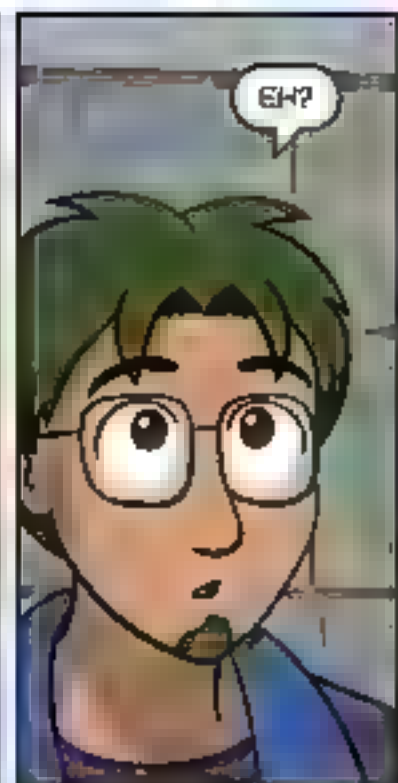
THERE'S
NOTHING MORE I
CAN DO HERE
WELL, EXCEPT
MAYBE "LOOK" AT
THAT TEDD GUY
AGAIN, BUT THAT
WOULD BE A BAD
IDEA. FOR
REASONS.

HECK FOR
ALL I KNOW.
THAT'S
ACTUALLY
TRUE



I'LL TELL THE GUYS
WHAT LITTLE I'VE LEARNED
AND WE'LL DECIDE WHERE
TO GO FROM HERE

HEY
LUKE?



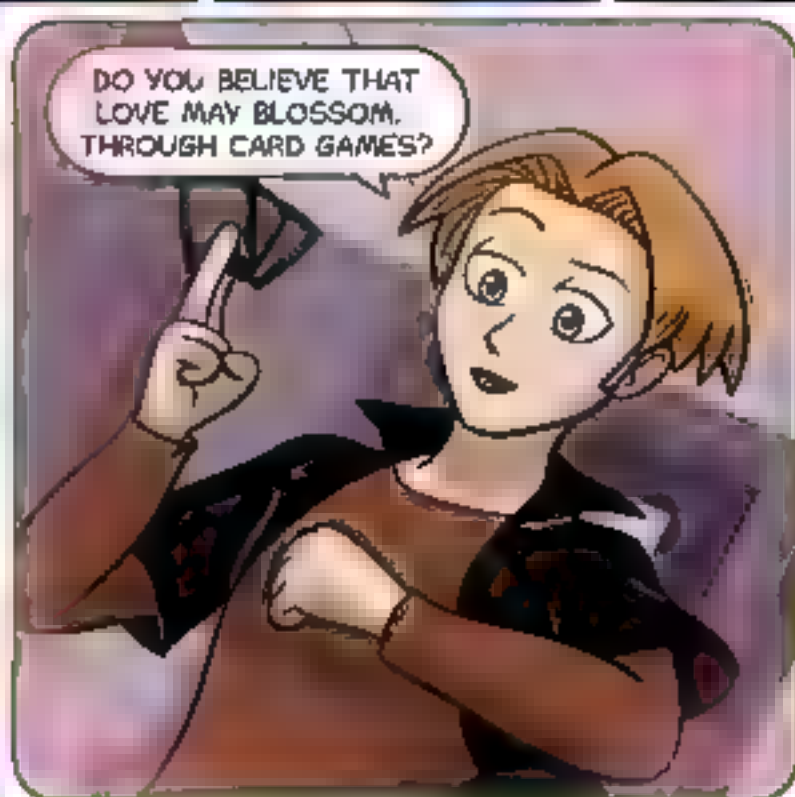
EH?



I'M ABOUT TO POLITELY
BUT FIRMLY TELL EVERYONE
TO LEAVE, BUT I WAS HOPING
YOU MIGHT STICK AROUND A
BIT SO WE CAN TALK?



TALK
ALONE?



DO YOU BELIEVE THAT
LOVE MAY BLOSSOM
THROUGH CARD GAMES?

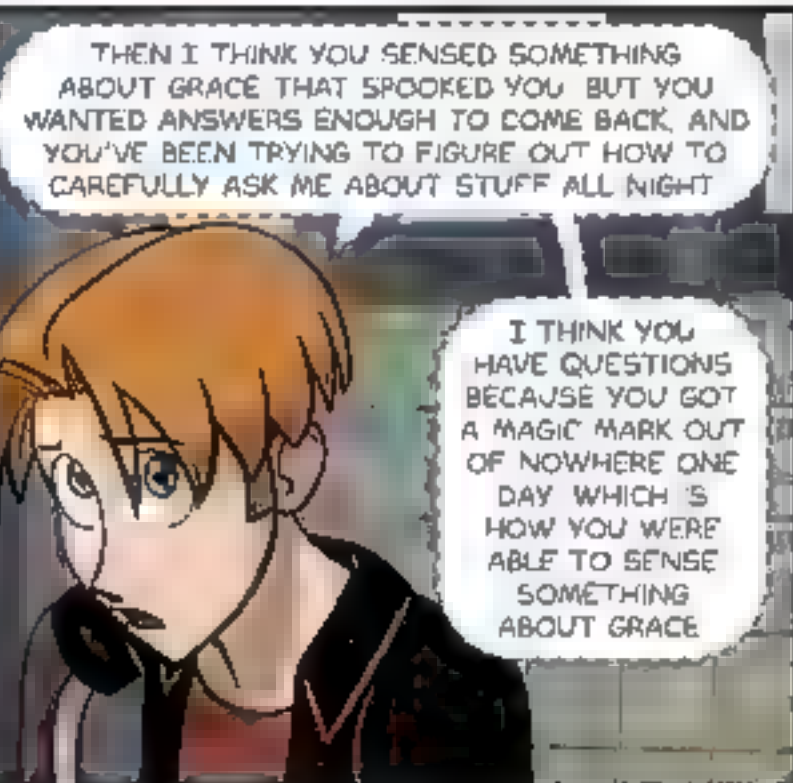




W.. WHAT DO YOU WANT TO TALK TO ME ABOUT?



I THINK YOU ORIGINALLY CAME HERE TO TALK TO ME ABOUT MY FIGHT WITH THE FIRE DUDE



THEN I THINK YOU SENSED SOMETHING ABOUT GRACE THAT SPOOKED YOU BUT YOU WANTED ANSWERS ENOUGH TO COME BACK, AND YOU'VE BEEN TRYING TO FIGURE OUT HOW TO CAREFULLY ASK ME ABOUT STUFF ALL NIGHT

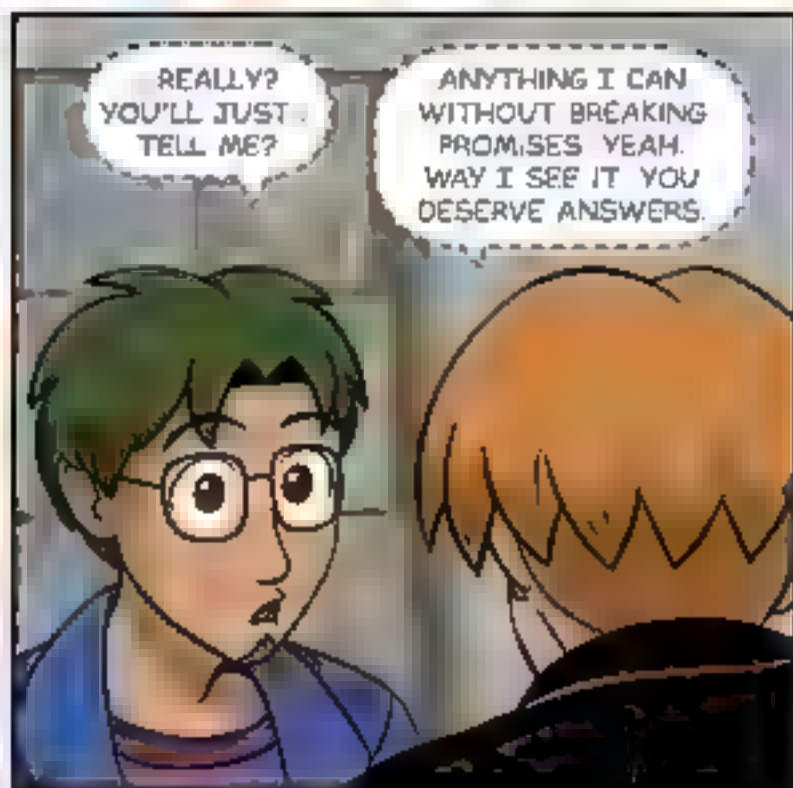
I THINK YOU HAVE QUESTIONS BECAUSE YOU GOT A MAGIC MARK OUT OF NOWHERE ONE DAY WHICH 'S HOW YOU WERE ABLE TO SENSE SOMETHING ABOUT GRACE



UH...



THERE ARE THINGS I CAN'T TELL YOU WITHOUT BETRAYING OTHER PEOPLE'S TRUST BUT THERE'S A LOT I CAN TELL YOU IF YOU WANT ME TO.



REALLY? YOU'LL JUST TELL ME?

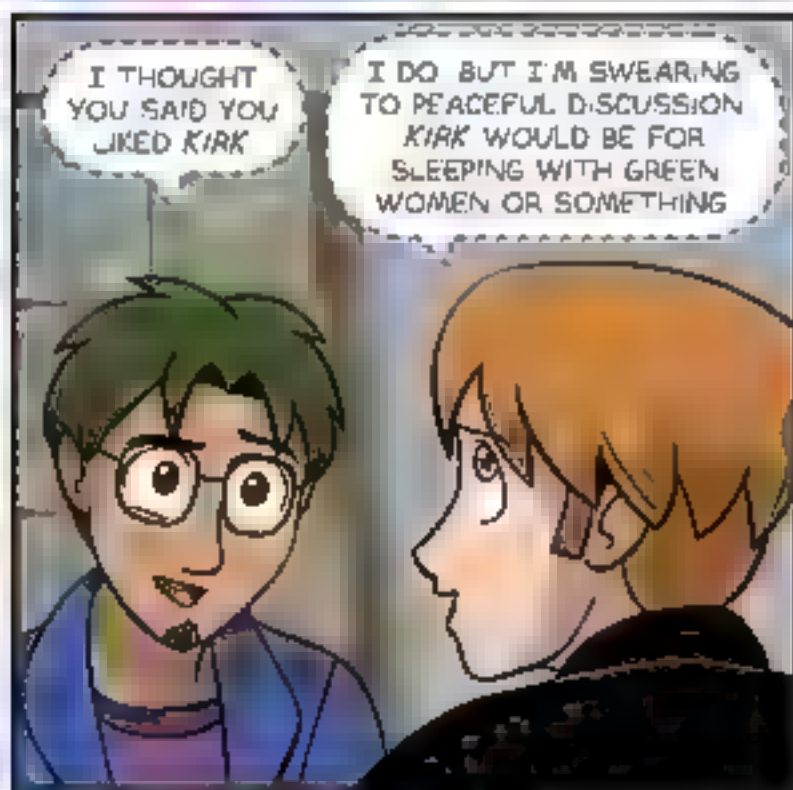
ANYTHING I CAN WITHOUT BREAKING PROMISES YEAH. WAY I SEE IT YOU DESERVE ANSWERS.



AND THIS IS JUST A FRIENDLY CHAT BETWEEN ME AND YOU? NOBODY'S GETTING KICKED INTO A RIVER?

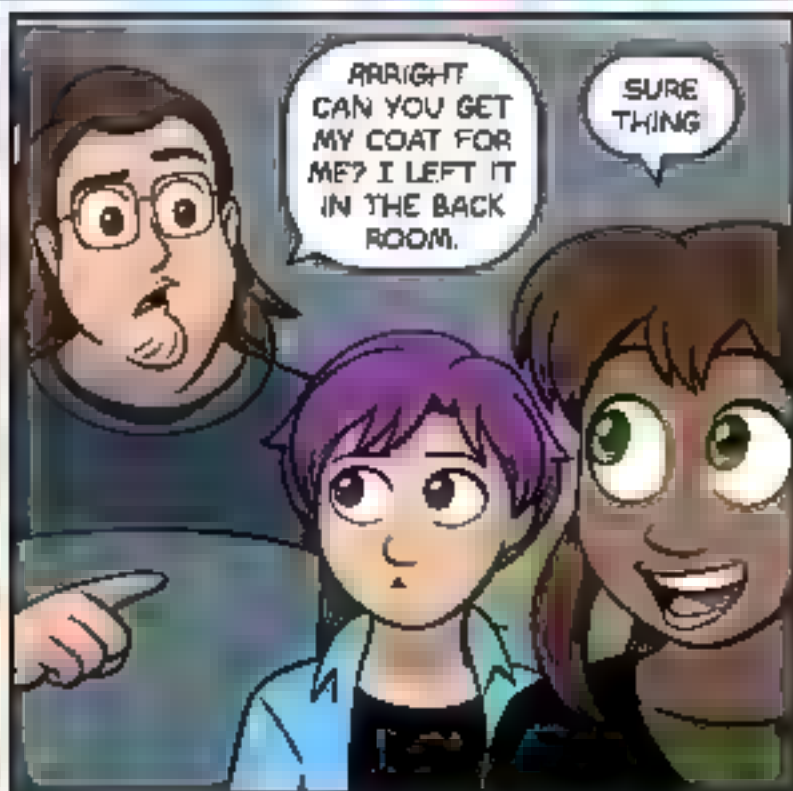
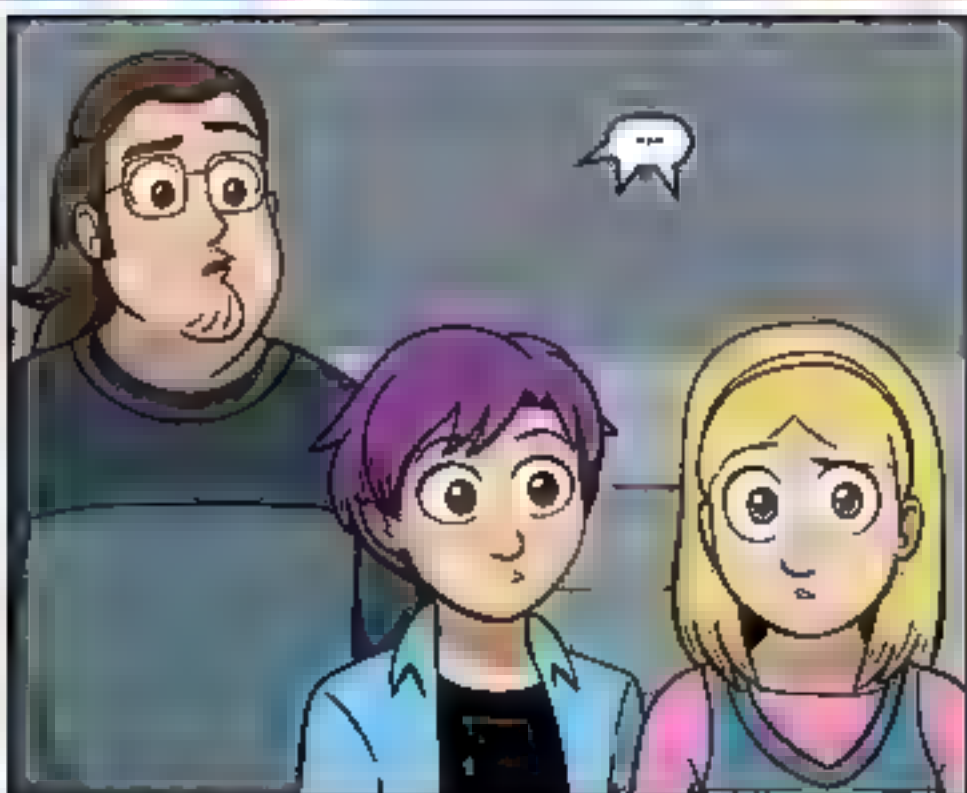
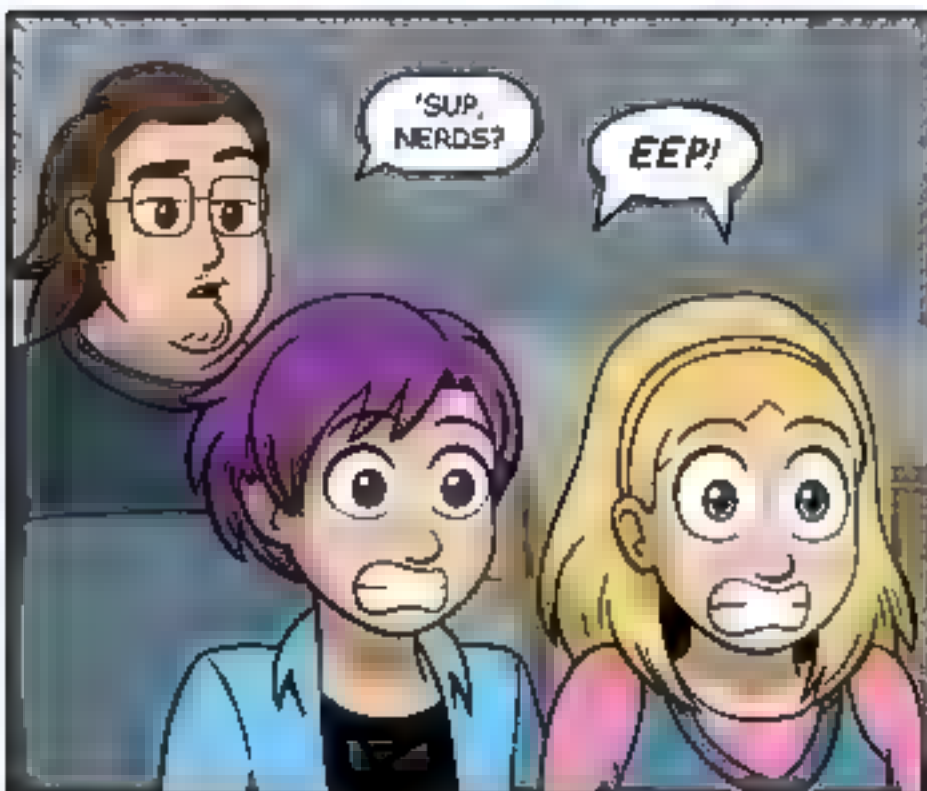


I SWEAR ON MY HONOR AS A FAN OF CAPTAIN PICARD



I THOUGHT YOU SAID YOU LIKED KIRK

I DO BUT I'M SWEARING TO PEACEFUL DISCUSSION KIRK WOULD BE FOR SLEEPING WITH GREEN WOMEN OR SOMETHING

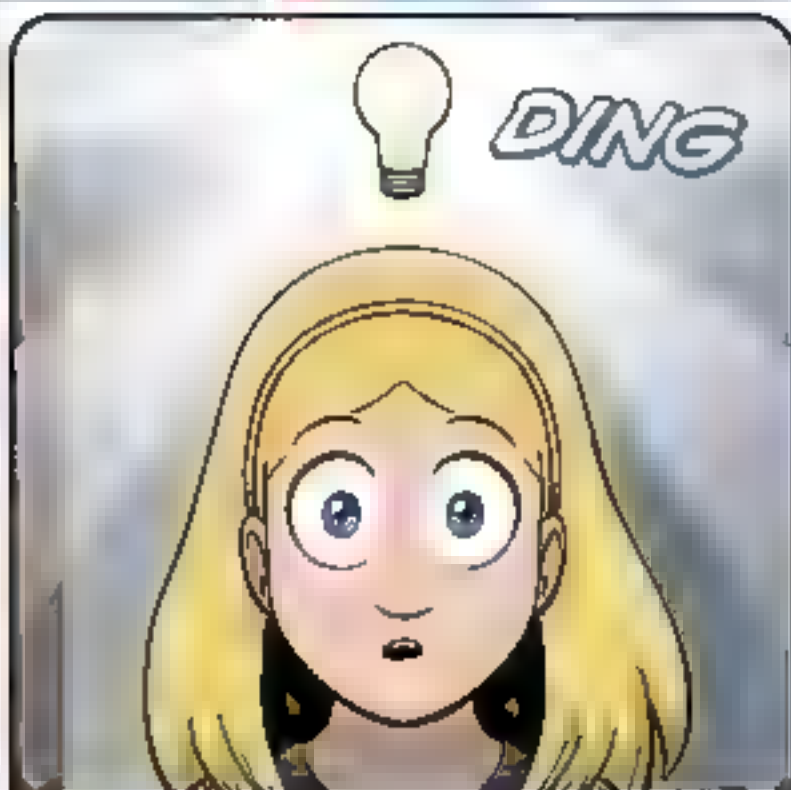
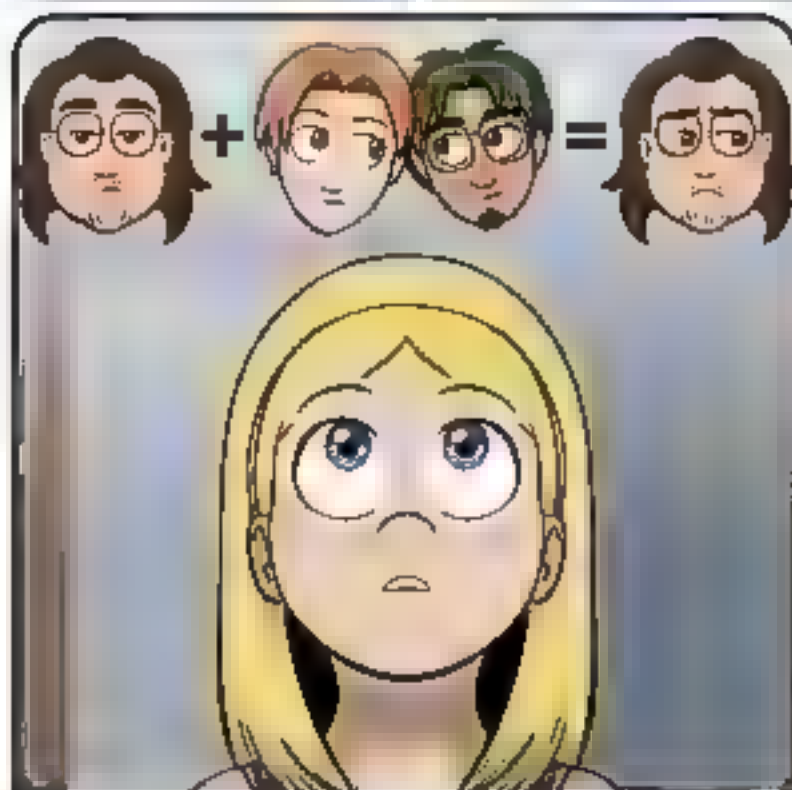
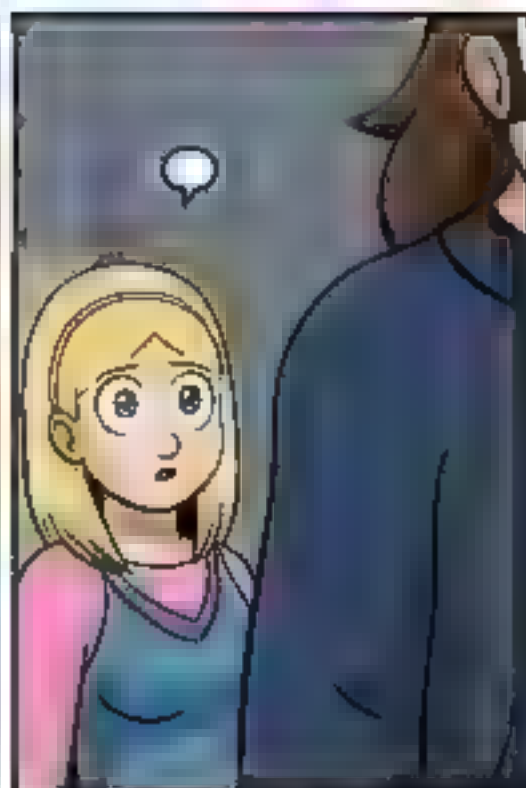
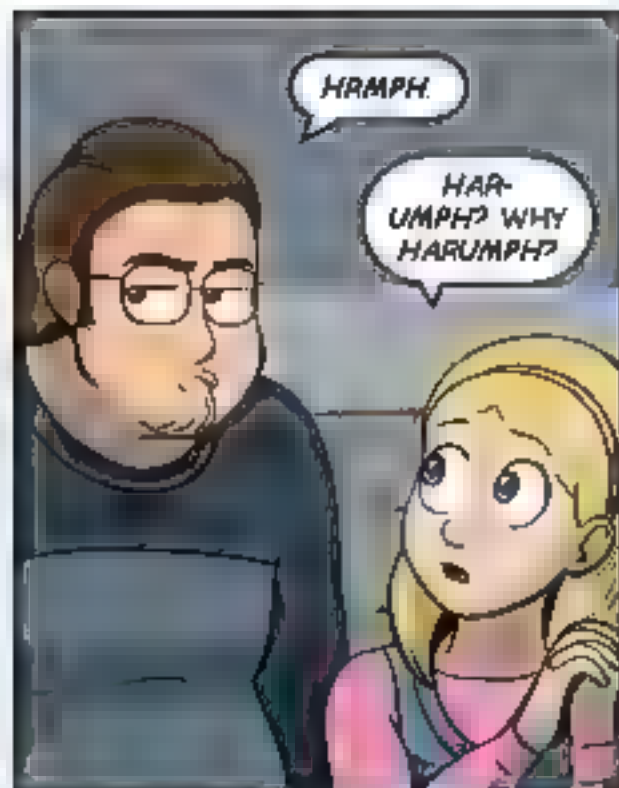
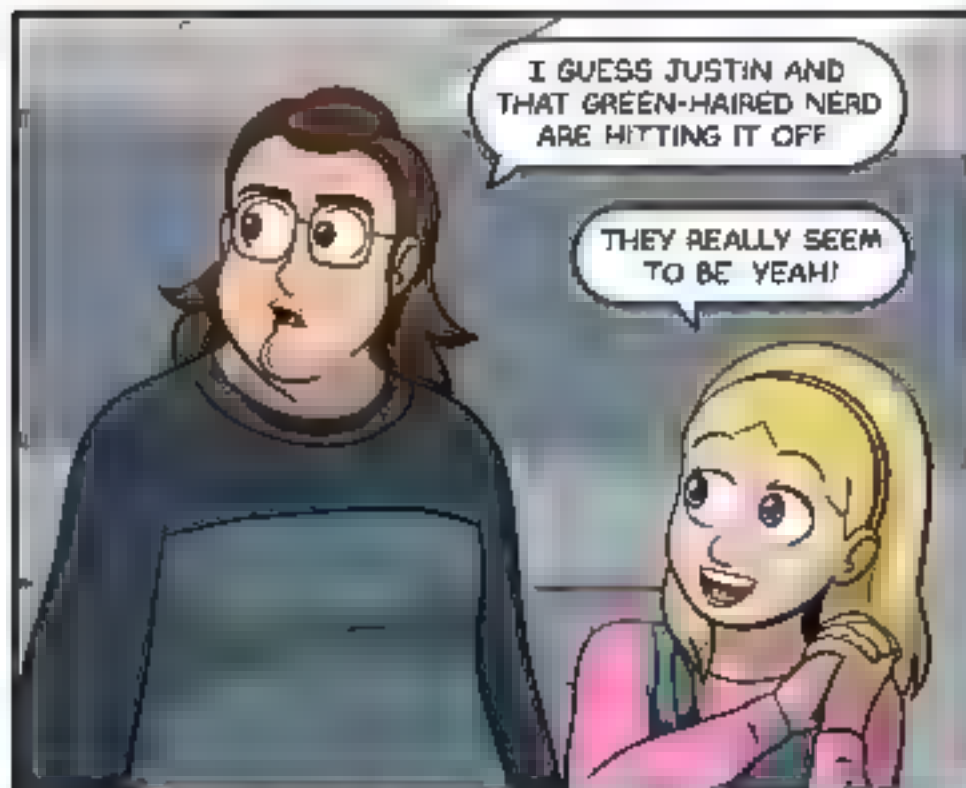


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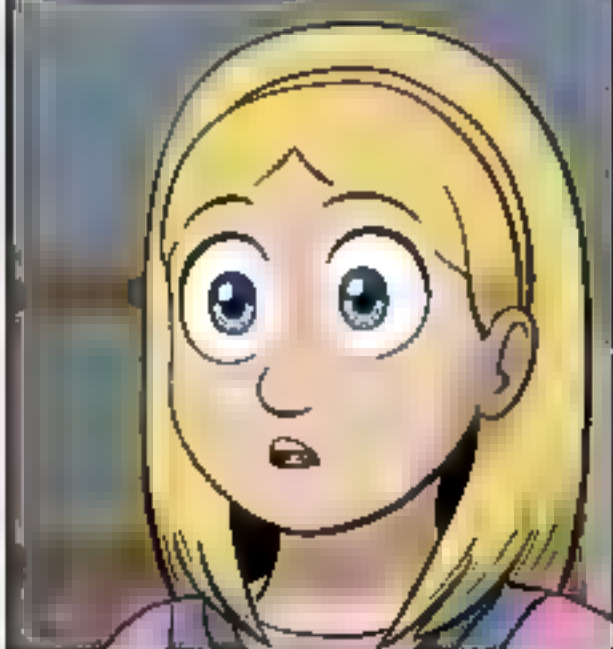
NEW STORY COMICS WILL RESUME DECEMBER 29!

FIND OUT IF GRACE FINDS GEORGE'S COAT THEN!

NEXT WEEK: EGS:NP, SKETCHBOOKS, AND COMMENTARIES

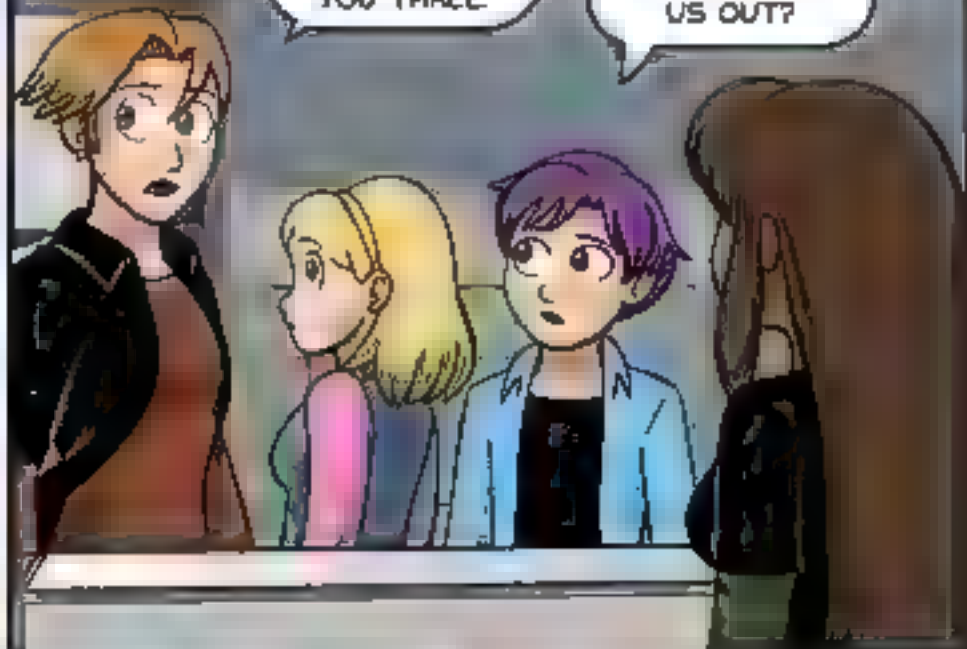


DOES GEORGE
LIKE JUSTIN?

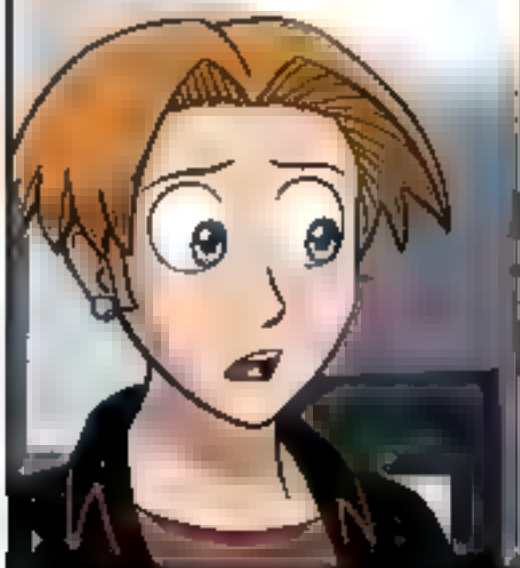


WELL, THAT'S
EVERYONE BUT
YOU THREE

YOU THROWING
US OUT?



NOT EXACTLY.
BUT... HAS GRACE
FILLED YOU IN?



YES, SHE
HAS, AND I'M
WORRIED IT
MIGHT BE A
BAD IDEA,



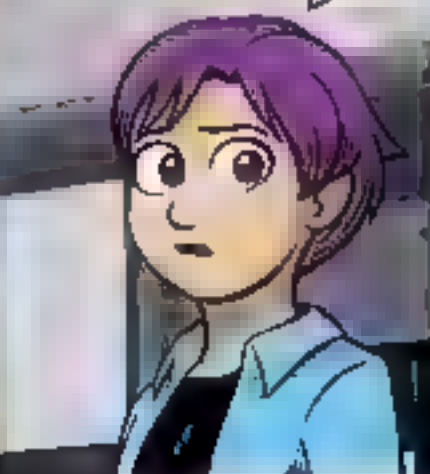
BAD IDEA OR NOT
I'VE ALREADY ASKED HIM.
AND HE'S AGREED TO
TALK TO ME ALONE



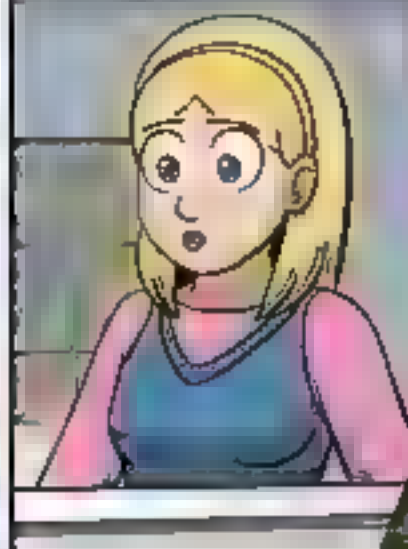
BLARGH. FINE
BUT I DON'T WANT TO
GO TOO FAR IN CASE
YOU NEED US.



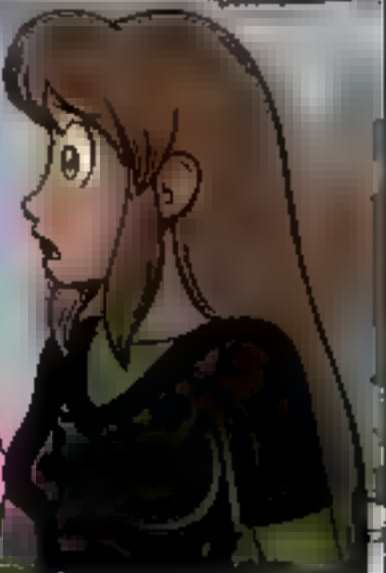
YOU TWO OKAY
WITH HANGING
OUT AT THE FAST
FOOD PLACE NEXT
DOOR WHILE
JUSTIN TALKS
TO LUKE?

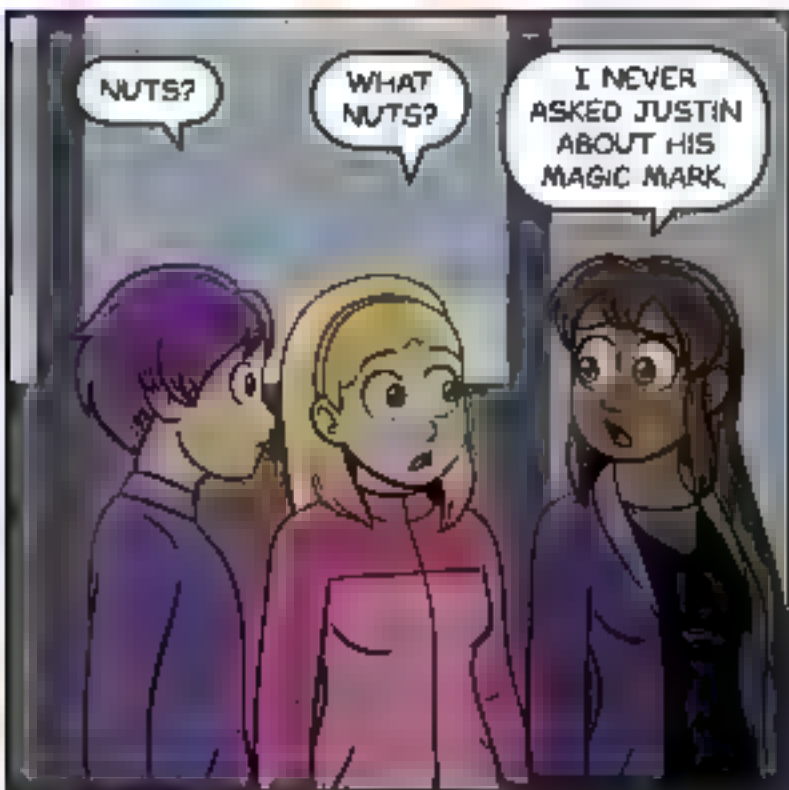
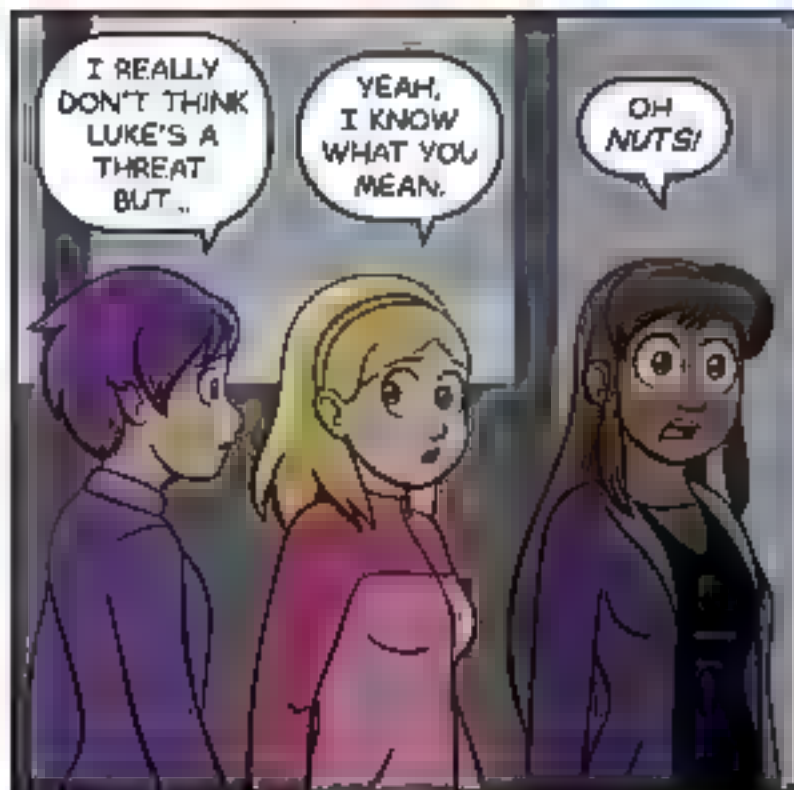
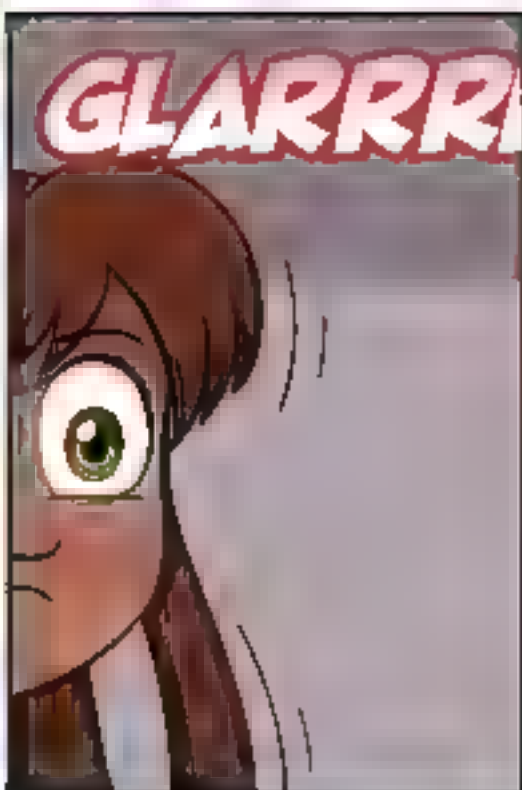
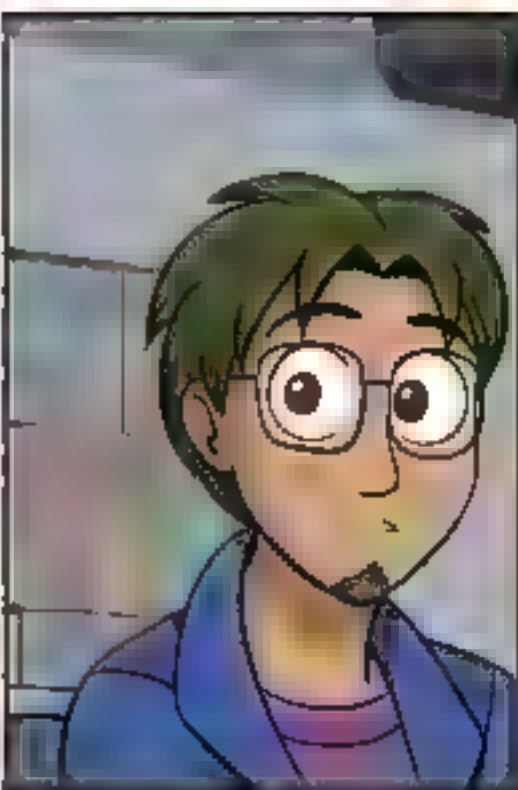
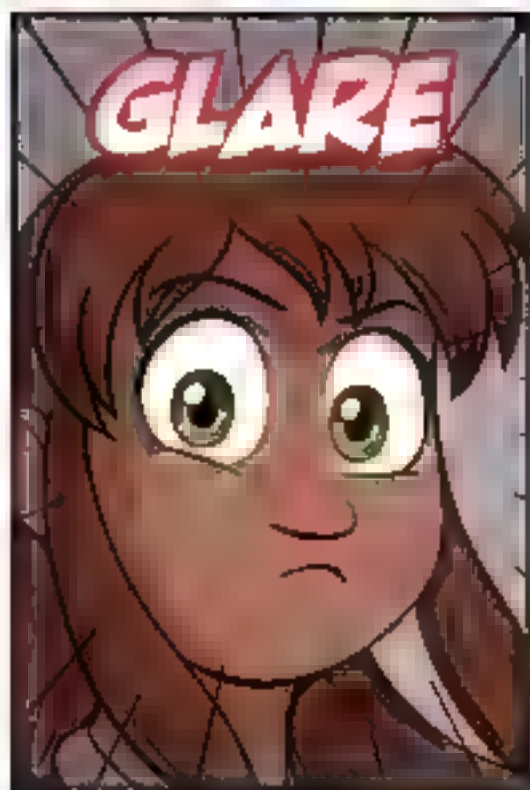
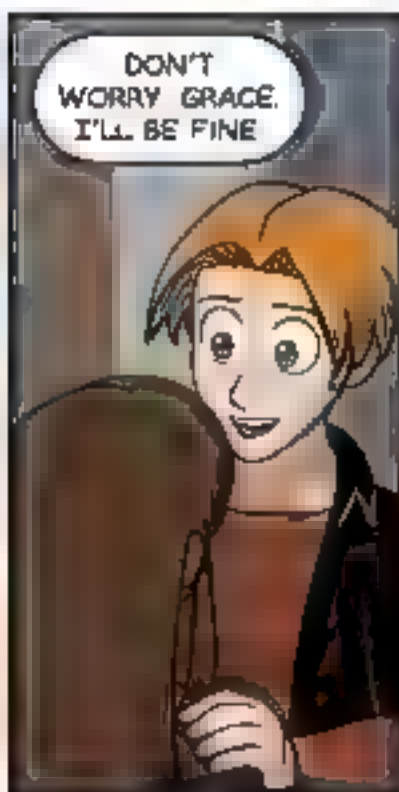


OOH. HELL
YEAH I JUST
REALIZED HOW
HUNGRY I AM.



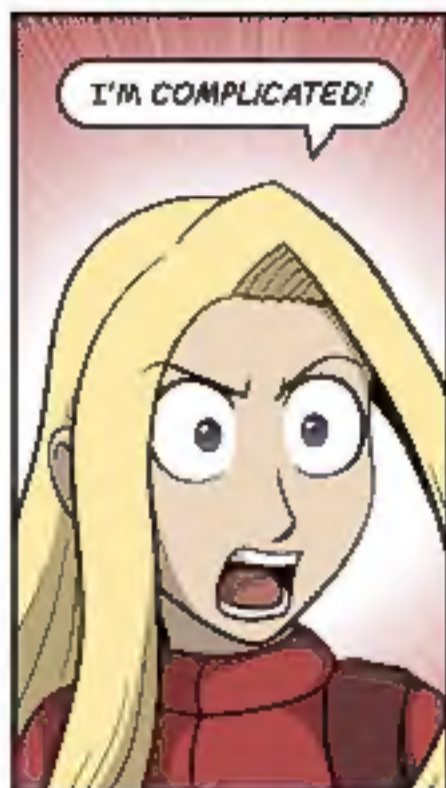
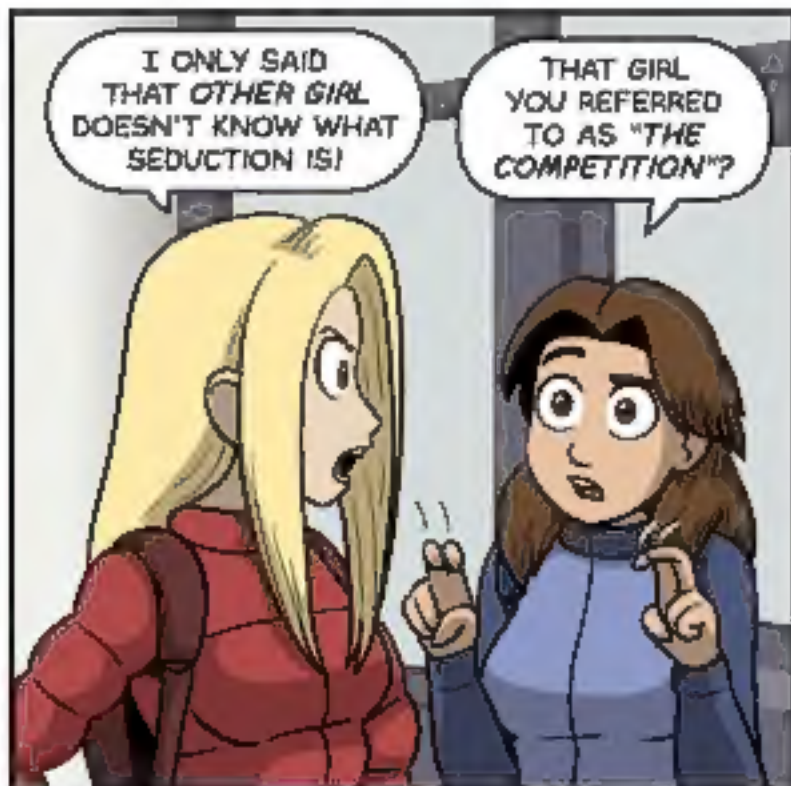
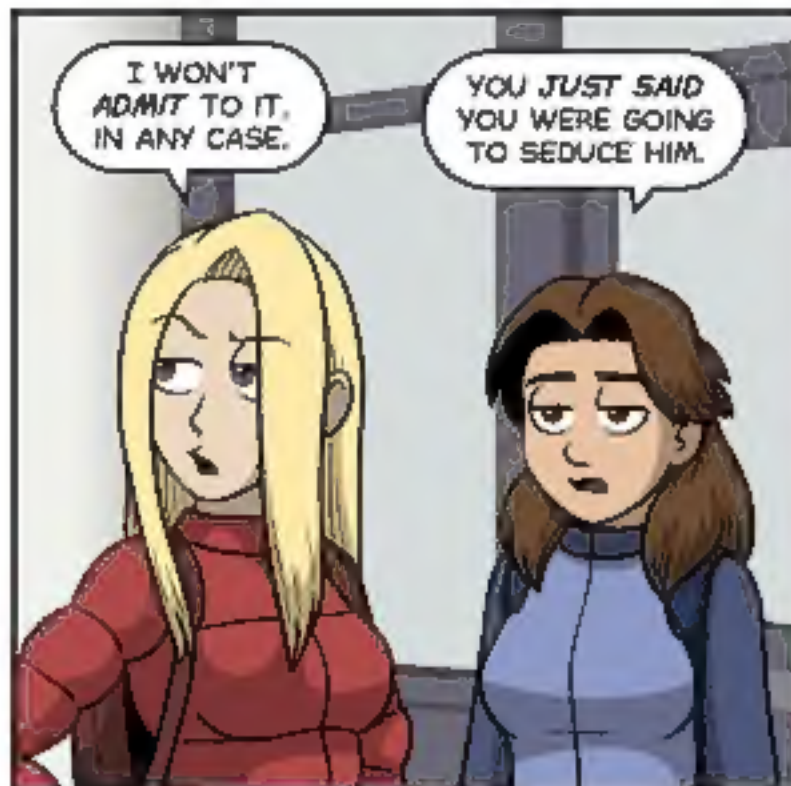
YEAH, IT FEELS LIKE
OUR DINNER BEFORE
THE TOURNAMENT WAS
MONTHS AGO.





NEXT STORY COMIC FRIDAY, JANUARY 2ND





Friday morning of the week Elliot asked Ashley out...

